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MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES,

IN CONTINUATION OF THE

BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA
BRITANNICA.

VOL. IX.

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MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES,

(IN CONTINUATION OF THE

BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA BRITANNICA,)

N° I.

CONTAINING

Mr. BARTLETT's *MANDUESSEDUM ROMANORUM*; being the HISTORY and ANTIQUITIES of the Parish of MANCETER, [including the Hamlets of HARTSHILL, OLDBURY, and ATHERSTONE ;] and also of the adjacent Parish of ANSLEY, in the County of WARWICK.

[PRICE HALF A GUINEA.]

U. OF F. LIBRARY

AMONG the various Labours of Literary Men, there have always been certain Fragments whose Size could not secure them a general Exemption from the Wreck of Time, which their intrinsic Merit entitled them to survive; but, having been gathered up by the Curious, or thrown into Miscellaneous Collections by Booksellers, they have been recalled into Existence, and by uniting together have defended themselves from Oblivion. Original Pieces have been called in to their Aid, and formed a Phalanx that might withstand every Attack from the Critic to the Cheefemonger, and contributed to the Ornament as well as Value of Libraries.

With a similar View it is here intended to present the Publick with some valuable Articles of BRITISH TOPOGRAPHY, from printed Books and MSS. One Part of this Collection will consist of Re-publications of scarce and curious Tracts; another of such MS Papers as the Editors are chiefly possessed of, or may receive from their Friends.

It is therefore proposed to publish a Number occasionally, not confined to the same Price or Quantity of Sheets, nor always adorned with Cuts; but paged in such a Manner, that the general Articles, or those belonging to the respective Counties, may form a separate Succession, if there should be enough published, to bind in suitable Classes; and in general it is intended that each Tract shall be completed in a single Number.

Into this Collection all Communications consistent with the Plan will be received with Thanks. And as no Correspondent will be denied the Privilege of controverting the Opinions of another, so none will be denied Admittance without a fair and impartial Reason.

Manduessedum Romanorum :

BEING THE

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

OF THE PARISH OF

M A N C E T E R,

[INCLUDING THE HAMLETS OF

Hartshill, Oldbury, and Atherstone],

AND ALSO OF THE ADJACENT PARISH OF

A N S L E Y,

In the County of WARWICK.

BY THE LATE BENJAMIN BARTLETT, Esq. F. A. S.

ENLARGED AND CORRECTED UNDER THE INSPECTION OF
SEVERAL GENTLEMEN RESIDENT UPON THE SPOT.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY AND FOR J. NICHOLS, PRINTER TO THE
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

M.DCC.XCI.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE late worthy and respectable Character whose name is prefixed to this publication employed, it is well known, a considerable portion of his leisure for many years on the subject of this little volume; and it would have been fortunate if his uncommon diffidence had not procrastinated the arrangement till illness which terminated in death prevented the completion of his design.

It being Mr BARTLETT's full intention that the "History of MANCETER" should appear as a number of the BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHIA BRITANNICA; he had several conversations with the present Editor on the subject; which regularly concluded with a resolution to prepare the manuscript for the press. On his decease in 1787*, the papers whence the work is now at length produced, with many of the drawings, became the property of Dr. COMBE; who very handsomely complied with the intention of the Author, by presenting them, such as they were, to the Editor; who has endeavoured, as far as he was able, to

* Mr. Benjamin Bartlett, F. A. S. died of a confirmed dropsy at Hertford, on Friday, the 2d of March, 1787, in his 73d year; and was buried in the Quakers burying-ground at Hartshill, on Sunday, the 11th of March, 1787. He had been an eminent apothecary at Bradford, in Yorkshire, where he succeeded his father, who had for his apprentice the afterwards celebrated Dr. Forbergill. The Doctor introduced his son to London, who, on his health declining, resigned his business to a partner, Mr. French, of Red Lion-street. His knowledge of the ancient coinage of this kingdom was equal to the valuable collections he had formed in its several departments, from the Saxon to the present time, besides variety of curious seals, celts, and other antique articles; which, by the fatality so common to the collectors of the present time, came under Mr. Gerrard's hammer. All that he ever published was a memoir "On the Episcopal Coins of Durham, and the Monastic Coins of Reading, minted during the Reigns of Edward I. II. and III. appropriated to their respective Owners." *Archæologia*, vol. V. p. 335. Mr. Bartlett lost his wife Jan. 1, 1785; and his only son, Benjamin Newton Bartlett, who survived him but seven months, came to a melancholy end, Oct. 20, 1787.

collect from the chaotic mass a regular and connected History; which would, however, have been far more incomplete than it is, if the assistance of some literary friends on the spot had not contributed largely to its improvement. The Rev. Mr. CLARE, vicar, and impropriator and patron, of *Manceter*, and Mr. BAXTER of *Alberston*, have on this account a fair claim to acknowledgement; and by Mr. ATKYNS of *Hartsbill*, no small portion of the embellishments were supplied: but the principal merit is due to JOHN LUDFORD, Esq; of *Ansley Hall*; not only for an exact account of his own parish, but for a minute and patient investigation of the whole, by which many of the errors have been weeded out, and several deficiencies supplied. By these aids, the History of Manceter now appears, it is hoped, in a manner not disreputable to the name of the original Collector; and is submitted to the publick as the first number of a new series of TOPOGRAPHICAL ANTIQUITIES.

December 31, 1791.

J. N.

The following letter to Mr. BARTLETT, communicated by a worthy friend since this work was printed, refers to the discoveries in and near Oldbury camp, 1773, p. 15; and will throw light on some passages in the early period of the History of Manceter.

“ Whittington, 19 Nov. 1781.

“ ’Tis very true, my dear Mr. Bartlett, that I have been strangely negligent in respect of you and your letter; and when I look at the date of the letter, I am perfectly ashamed of myself. However, I have now found it, and will endeavour to make some amends for my former negligence by an immediate reply; and if any thing I may happen to suggest is so lucky as to afford you any satisfaction, I shall esteem it a felicity.

“ In the first place, I have no doubt but the camp at Oldbury, being a square, or rather a double square, as you represent it, was
Roman;

Roman *; that being a form, which, if the ground allowed it, that people invariably chose to use.

“ 2. The Tumulus, though three quarters of a mile distant from the camp, I conceive to be Roman too. And the brick pavement, not at all like the tessellated floors of the Prætoria, must have been designed for the placing the urn, or the body, upon; believing that there was *generally* (for I will not say always) something of that nature both in Kist-vaens and in Tumuli.

“ 3. Your flint-axe is doubtless a curiosity, such British remains being now very scarce: I call it British, because the Romans, when here, knew the use both of iron and copper, and would scarcely use stone or flint for such implements. But how, you will say, came a British tool into a Roman tumulus? This is the very question stated in your letter; and I answer, There is no necessity to suppose that the party interred in the Tumulus was a Roman; since at this time the Britons were many of them become allies of the Romans, and had many of them adopted their manners; and thus, though they followed the Roman manner of interment, for example, they retained their own utensils: probably they might have no other to use; and you are sensible that it was a common practice to bury tools and implements, with other valuable articles, along with their defunct possessors.

“ 4. The holes at each corner of the pavement were probably intended to discharge any water that might ooze down upon it.

“ These, Sir, are my sentiments on the matter; but how far they may coincide with your own ideas, you can best judge. I shall be happy to find we judge and think alike; and am, Sir,
Your affectionate and most obedient servant,

SAMUEL PEGGE.”

* The authorities of Mr. Camden and Sir William Dugdale are sufficient to prove the fort at Oldbury to be Roman.

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

* * This Number contains Twenty-four Plates ; viz.

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I. Roman Milliary, found near Leicefter,	—		p. 14
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X. Seals of Bec, Merevale, &c.	—	—	p. 77
XI. Earl of Stafford's Arms, from Maxftoke Caftle Gates,	—		p. 79
*XI. Seal of the Earl of Chefter, Warwick, &c.	—		p. 80
XII. North Elevation of Atherfton Chapel,	—		p. 90
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— COLEPEPER	—		— p. 60.

Signatures : A—Q ; Q 4—7 ; R, S ; S, *T—*Y ; T—T 5 ; U—Y.

Pages v—viii ; 1—118 ; *119—*124 ; 121, 122 ; 121—136 ; *137—167 ; 137—142 ; *143—146 ; 143—168.

P. 163. l. 10. for “ Ufa,” r. “ Ufa.”

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

O F

M A N C E T E R.

MANCETER, or MANCESTER, the *Manduessedum* of the Romans, now including, in the parish, the hamlets of *Manceter*, *Oldbury*, and *Hartshill*, and the town of *Atherston*, is bounded on the North-east by the Watling Street and the river Ankor, on the North-west by Merevale, on the South-east by Caldecot and Nun Eaton, and on the South by Ansley, containing about nine square miles.

It is situate in the hundred of Hemlingford, in the North part of the county of Warwick, a part of the antient and extensive forest of Arden, of which her native poet and industrious Antiquary sings*,

“ Muse, first of Arden tell, whose footsteps yet are found
“ In her rough woodlands more than any other ground
“ That mighty Arden held even in her height of pride ;
“ Her one hand touching Trent, the other, Severn’s side.

“ _____

“ When Britain first her fields with villages had fill'd,
“ Her people wexing still, and wanting where to build,

* Drayton, Polyolbion, Song XIII.

" They oft dislodged the hart, and fet their houses where
 " He in the broom and brakes had long time made his leyre.
 " Of all the forests here within this mighty isle,
 " If those old Britons then me soveraign did instile,
 " I needs must be the great'ft."

Of the Rivers in Arden.

" How Arden of her rills and riverets doth dispose;
 " By Alcester how Aln to Arro eas'ly flows;
 " And mildly being mixt, to Avon hold their way:
 " And likewise tow'rd the North how lively-tripping Rhea,
 " T' attend the lustier Tame, is from her fountain sent:
 " So little Cole and Blyth go on with him to Trent.
 " His Tamworth at the last he in his way doth win:
 " There playing him a while, till Ancor should come in."

The Aln runs by Henley in Arden, and into the Arrow at Alcester; Avon by Rugby, Warwick, and Stratford [upon Avon, the birth-place of the famous Warwickshire bard, William Shakespear]; Rhea by Birmingham; Tame by Aston juxta Birmingham and Tamworth; Cole and Blythe by Colehill; and Ankor through Hartshill, Manceter, Atherston, and Polesworth, where was a very antient nunnery,

" Whose sacred walls the holy Edith graced."

The Arden here celebrated by our poet was, as he says, the largest of all the forests in Britain, extending from the banks of the Avon, which washes the whole South side of this huge wild, to the Trent on the North, to the Severn on the West, and East to an imaginary line drawn from High Cross to Burton *.

This extensive wild was solely appropriated to the pasturage of the *Cornavian* and *Huiccian* cattle, attended by their keepers

* See a map of the Arden in Plate *I.



the *Ceangi* of the different tribes. If we except a few hovels for the herdsmen, there were at that time no other habitations save at some of those stations on the road going through the Arden, which the Romans at their second visit to this country discovered to lead from their landing place to the Irish sea, and which was called by the Britons the *Getbling Street*. Of these stations there were five in this forest; that in the middle by the Britons called *Manduessedum*, signifying a place of residence for the baron or principal of the Ardenian *Ceangi*; in after-days the Saxon *Manceaster*; and in these modern times *Mancester* or *Manceter*, this village yet carrying with it the church and its parochial honours. What its first construction was, whether an habitation for the Ceangian baron and his Ambacton, or one of those places of defence Cæsar calls a British town, is not known, nor is its form described by any of the most antient authors. The Romans, no doubt, made many improvements; and as was their custom to inhabit these stations, so improved by themselves, here as in other places they built a town for the Britons, which they called *Caer Mandu Guidb*.

Of the Cornavii, who are more often mentioned as the inhabitants of these midlands than the Huiccii, we only know that some of them served under the later emperors, as appears by the breviary of the Western empire.

“ Sub dispositione viri spectabilis ducis Britannorum

“ Item per Lineam Valli

“ Tribunus Cohortis Cornaviorum Ponte Ælii.”

Of the Huiccii or Wiccii, that they were governed at that time by a chieftain of their own nation, Venusius, of all the Britains after Caractacus the greatest for military skill and valour, and who after the death of the great Cunobeline had married his widow Cartismandua, in her own right queen of the Brigantes.

The first visit which the Romans paid the Arden was in the year 50, under the command of Publius Ostorius Scapula, the successor of Aulus Plautius. He led the Roman troops from the banks of the southern Ouse, and the adjacent station of *Laetodorum* * (where they had remained from the departure of Plautius) northwards, following the course of the Watling Street, and fixing their encampments on the sites of the British stations, as they had done since they first begun this march across the island.

His first station was *Bennavenna* in the neighbourhood of the extensive wilds of the Arden: here finding three lofty hills adjoining the Watling Street, on these he formed and intrenched as many large camps, in order to secure to himself and troops a safe retreat, in case he should meet with any repulses from the hardy foresters, the Wiccian Ceangi, in his rout through their dreary thickets, or from the neighbouring tribes, from some of whom † he met with a good deal of trouble; but as it is not my intention here to write a history of the Romans, except so far as immediately relates to the Arden, I shall omit them, and go on with Ostorius's march. Whilst he was finishing these works, he entered into a treaty of alliance with Venusius the Huiccian chieftain, which prevented any future disputes with the Wiccian Ceangi during his life; he then marched to the banks of the Avon, and there fixed his first Ardenian station *Tripontium*, which several of our modern antiquaries say was at Lilborn. The author of the Avon a poem, speaking of the Roman encampment there, says,

“ Where now their place beneath a happier sky

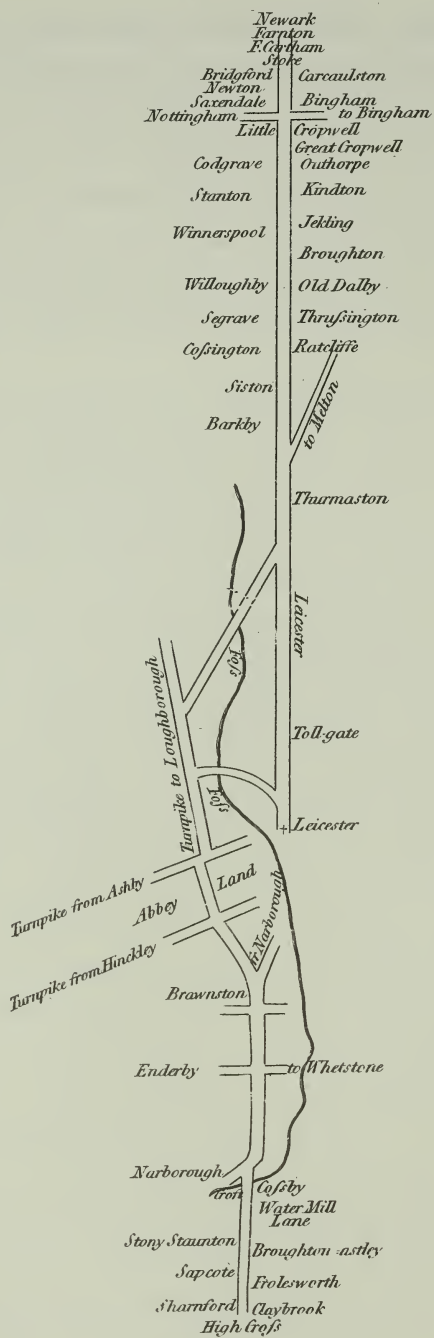
“ Lilborn's white flocks and peaceful swains supply.”

* Old Stratford on the rising ground above the river.

† The Iceni.

Here

The Fofs-way



Here he entered this huge and extensive forest, and pursuing the course of the Watling Street along the North East side thereof, named his second station *Venones* or *Benones*, now Cleybrook. Here the road divides; Richard says, “ findit in duas “ partes.” The later writers, who had not seen Richard, say that here the Foss crosses the Watling Street; but whether it was done by Ostorius for a road to the Iceni, or for what purpose, it went to *Rata Coritanorum* or Coitmor, whilst the other, the Watling Street, continued its course to the Irish sea. At this place there was antiently a tall pole set, which soon obtained the name of *High-Cross*, but falling down through age and decay in 1712, an elegant stone pillar was erected and inscribed *. Here turning a little to the left, Ostorius marched to the banks of the Ancor, and our British station of *Mandueffedum*, which our early etymologists supposed to be so called from a number of stone pits thereabouts †, though at present none are to be seen. The more modern etymologists take a different ground, and call it the place or capital station of the Huiccii ‡.

The fourth station is called *Etoctum*; and the fifth and last in the Arden *Pennocrucium*, a length, counting from Tripon-tium, of fifty-eight miles.

Ostorius now approaching the Irish sea was recalled by some commotions amongst the southern Brigantes, which he quickly appeased. These were the *Sifuntii* of Lancashire, who, having been invaded and subdued by the *Brigantes* about the Christian æra, were by the conquerors obliged to take their name, which they continued to bear until the subjection of the Brigantes by Petilius Cerealis, when being freed from their yoke they resumed their antient name, by which they were long after distinguished.

* See the Inscription, History of Hinckley, p. 121; and views both of the old pole and the present pillar in p. 371.

† See Camden, Dugdale, &c.

‡ See Baxter, Henry.

A. D. 51 the Silures disliking, as the Iceni had done before, the terms on which the Dobuni had formed their alliance with the Romans, made a descent upon them; to retaliate which, as well as to defend their new allies, Ostorius marched to meet the Silurian commander the valiant Caractacus, who had removed from that country to amongst the Ordovices at Caercadoc, after these two commanders met and a most bloody and obstinate fight, Ostorius remained victor. Caractacus flying to his mother-in-law Cartismandua, was by her infamously delivered up to the Romans. Ostorius returning now to his entrenchments determined as much as possible to prevent such frequent inroads upon the Roman allies and conquests, as tended to an entire prevention of a civilization taking place amongst them, by building forts, and forming entrenched camps on the Avon and Severn, of which we have three yet remaining.

“ *Præsidium* Antonini quasi dicas Warwick, *Arx* Uigantum, “ *statio*, juxta librum *Notitiæ Præpositi Equitum Dalmatarum* “ *frenandis Arduennæ Sylvæ Ceangis, atque etiam Dumnoniorum.*

“ *Alauna* hodie *Alcester* in confluentia duorum fluminum Auln “ five Alauni et Arrow five Garumnæ.

“ *Mediolanium* Ptolemæi ad Sabrinam amnem hodie Bewd- “ ley *.”

And at Aver Arley about five miles higher up the river a camp on the banks nearly a square, with double and on one side treble ditches; this the late Dr. Lyttelton supposed to be one of the camps which Ostorius formed on the banks of the Severn, during his conflicts with the Silures, who ever restless made several other attacks upon the Romans, and in general with so much success as to embitter the mind of Ostorius, who finding the tide of victory to be turned, and his laurels to wi-

* These three from Baxter.

ther, withdrew to his entrenchments near *Bennavenna*, where he finished his course. Tacitus says, “*Tædio curarum fessus*” “*Ostorius concessit vita; lætis hostibus tanquam ducem non sper-*” “*nendum etsi non prælium certe bellum absumpsit **”. Ostorius sinking under the weight of his anxieties, expired to the great joy of the enemy, that a captain so considerable, though he had not fallen in battle, had yet perished in the war. It is with great probability supposed that he was interred on the plain near the great western camp, under a tumulus called *Oster's Hill* in West Haddon Field. Bridges, in his History of Northamptonshire †, says, “In West Haddon Field is an eminence called “*Ostor Hill*; under which, according to vulgar report, are “the remains of some great barons slain in battle †;” from whence he infers that it is a tumulus or sepulchral monument, and from the name conjectures that it is the tumulus of Publius Ostorius Scapula the celebrated Roman proprætor, under the emperor Claudius; and though neither the exact place of his death nor burial are recorded in history, no place can be assigned more probably than this, in the neighbourhood of the great military works at Gilsborough and Daventry, said to be of his erection, and the memory of it sufficiently preserved, by the name itself, by its vicinity to those encampments, and by the confused remains of obscure tradition.

He was succeeded by Aulus Didius, during whose administration Venufius, resenting the conduct of the Romans in Cartismandua's affair, broke his alliance with them, and drawing along with him his Huiccii joined the Silures. This breach of friendship occasioned the total conquest of the Huiccii, under the succeeding administration of Suetonius Paulinus, and consequently the entire reduction of the Arden to the Roman

* Tacit. Ann. XII. 39.

† P. 599.

government;

government, who to accustom them the better to their new yoke, began to build towns in order to allure their new subjects to the practice of their modes of living, and of their laws, arts, &c. and for themselves summer camps on more elevated ground, as well for the benefit of more airy situations, as for the conveniency of places wherein to perform their exercises, &c.

For these purposes few or any of their stations furnished them with a more agreeable situation than ours; the river Ancor, which had run parallel with the Watling Street for some length of way, approaching the camp, suddenly turns to the right, and crosses the road in the front thereof, betwixt which and the river the ground gently falling to the South gave sufficient space for their intended city; and for their summer camp the adjoining lofty hill of Oldbury on the left provided a most pleasing site as well as prospect: hence they had a full view of the city with the road on each side, and on a clear day a distant prospect of the great works at Daventry. This camp, which is of an oblong form, and before some alterations were made on the South East, is said to have contained seven acres; the high ramparts owing to the care of the owners yet, 1777, in full perfection. Sir William Dugdale informs us, that in his time there were dug up a little to the North of this camp several flint celts, each about four inches long, which he looked upon as curiosities, there being no flints in this county, nor within forty miles thereof so large as these; so that he supposes by their having been fetched so far, that they were used for arms, as they certainly were. Perhaps this place had been used as a specular station by the Wiccii, and these celts left there by the watchmen. To the South East of this camp, and at the bottom of the hill on that side, a large plain extends itself to the South, and is terminated

minated by another small camp scarcely noticed. This last camp appears to have been constructed for a guard against any of the foresters attempting to surprize the garrison when performing their exercises, or the Mandueffedians enjoying their diversions on this elevated and beautiful plain, the Campus Martius of *Mandueffedum*, which was not forsaken by the departure of the Romans, here having been two tumuli, perhaps the remains of many more, left compleat, one of them tolerably large, the other much smaller, the bottom of which was covered with a brick pavement, and in it a most curious small stone-axe, the uses from its size not so obvious. Sir William Dugdale says that some flint celts were dug up near the summer camp, I think, in his time, which from the shape, &c. were as certainly the manufactory of the Huiccians as the stone axe and brick pavement were of Provincial Britons.

From this period the Romans being engaged with the restless Silures, and the daring revolt of the Iceni under their illustrious queen Boadicea, made no attempts to go further North till A. D. 72, when Petilius Cerealis marched against the Brigantes. He resumed the practice which his predecessors had used of making or repairing a road; and fixing stations at proper places and distances, he began at *Lindum Colonia*, and there turning to the North East, went through the domains of the Brigantes, where, after several bloody engagements, equality of valour giving way to inequality of discipline, the Brigantes reluctantly submitted.

I must now return to our station of *Mandueffedum*, and the new-built city by the antient Britons called *Manchgued* or *Caer Manduguidb*. This station, the third in the Arden, the eighth in the second iter of Antoninus, and the ninth in the first iter of Richard, is distant from the Milliarium commonly called *London*

Stone in Watling Street 102 miles, and by modern mensuration from the bars in Holborn 99 miles.

This station, situate in the province of Flavia Maxima, has been taken notice of by all the writers and commentators on the Itineraries and interior geographers of Roman Britain, of which in the order of time in which they wrote.

Camden in his *Britannia*, an. 1600, 4to.

“ In orientali hujus latere ad Watlingstreete (sic militarem
 “ Romanorum viam vocamus) *Manduessedum* oppidum longè
 “ vetustissimum ab Antonino memoratum locum habuit quod
 “ suo nomine non omnino viduatum, nunc *Mancester* dicitur,
 “ Nennii Catalogo *Caer Manchgued*. Quod nomen cum lapi-
 “ dicinia adjacent, e qua structiles lapides effodiuntur, a lapidi-
 “ bus effossis et excisis impositum suspicare liceat; e Britan-
 “ nicæ enim linguæ glossariis *Main Lapidis*, *Fosswad* effodiendi
 “ significationem habere docemur, quæ conjuncta antiquum
 “ illud nomen *Manduessedum* satis expresse referre videantur,
 “ quantum autem et quaecunque olim fuerit viculus hodie
 “ perexiguus vix quatuordecim ædiculas numerat, et nihil an-
 “ tiqua præter molem antiquam ostendit.”

Sir William Dugdale, *Warwickshire*, ed. 1656.

“ Descending lower on this side the Anker, I come next to
 “ *Manceter*, heretofore a Roman station, as the form of that
 “ entrenchment, through which the great way called Watling
 “ Street passeth, doth manifest, where divers coins of silver and
 “ brasse have been by digging and plowing frequently brought
 “ to light; but now it is no more than an ordinary country
 “ village, containing Hartshill, Oldburie, and Atherston, within
 “ its parish,”

Burton's

Burton's Antoninus, 1658, p. 139.

“ *Mandueffedum*, a famous Roman station, as appears by
 “ Antoninus. To find out where it stood amongst the antiqua-
 “ ries will be to little purpose; the difficulty, I suppose, arises
 “ from taking improper methods of investigation. Our learned
 “ Camden, by taking a sure course along the Watling Street,
 “ hath at a proper distance from *Etocetum* found it. Nennius
 “ gives it a place amongst the antient cities, to which the learned
 “ Usher assents.”

Gale, *Iter Antonini*, p. 59, voce *Mandueffedum*.

“ MANDUESSEDO, *Mancester*, in agro Warwicensi, a Lapidinis
 “ suis nomen habet; est enim Britannis *Maen* Lapis, et si locum
 “ adeas Lapidinas invenies hic ærea Romanorum Imperato-
 “ rum plurima, et aliquoties in manus agricolarum deveniunt
 “ capita *.”

Baxter gives us a different derivation, p. 168.

“ *Mandueffedum* Antonino dicitur vetustum Corigaunorum
 “ oppidum, quod hodie in finibus est Pagi Præliarii five War-
 “ wicani, sed in rudibus jacet nomine *Mancester*, quod urbs
 “ est Mandueffedum. Hoc Nennio nostro vitiose scribitur *Caer*
 “ *Manchged* pro *Caer Mandu guidb*, quod est civitas *Mandu in*
 “ *sylvis*. Siquidem Conventus iste primis temporibus fere con-
 “ stabat *Arduennæ saltu*. Superius ostendimus Britannis vete-
 “ ribus *Mandu* fuisse pro *patria*, etsi sit in fabella Caledonii
 “ Regis Cul-huchi etiam *Maendy* pro *Regia* vel *Lapideâ domo*.
 “ *Effedin* etiam five hodierna scriptura *Kffydbyn* pro *sede* est;
 “ unde et carpentum bellicum veterum Celtarum *Effedin* ap-
 “ pellatum est. Erat igitur *Mandu Effedin* tanquam *patriæ*

* In a copy with his son Roger's MS. notes, now in the hands of Mr. Gough, is added, “ Interfluit vicum hodiernum et antiquum fluvius *Anker* quem per pontem
 “ transgreditur *Via Watlingiana* rudibus Romanæ urbis ad Austrum postea in-
 “ terfectis 800 circiter pedes a ponte.”

“ *sedes*. Curia hæc videtur fuisse five Basilica veterum Uigan-
 “ tum five Icenorum, cui quidem successit inclyta Urbs *Con-*
 “ *ventria* five *Coventry* vel *Convent Vee* (*Arbor* scilicet, five
 “ *Crux Conventus*) Anglis appellata, atque hæc nobis *Man-*
 “ *dueffedum novum* est.”

Horfeley is very concise here :

“ Nor do I see any reason to question, but the next station
 “ of *Mandueffedum* must be at *Manceter*, where many Roman
 “ coins have been found.”

Nathaniel Salmon in 1726 published a small pamphlet, intitled, “ A Survey of the Roman Antiquities in some of the
 “ Midland Counties.” In this work he attempts to alter many of the stations, especially that of *Mandueffedum*, which he removes to Warwick, allows a nameless station at Oldbury, but entirely destroys the existence of one at Manceter; reprobates the name of Watling Street as of British or Roman imposition; and asserts that it had that name from Watford Gap. The very great improbabilities introduced in support of his absurd scheme prevented any of his contemporary or succeeding writers from investigating any of his extensive ideas.

Dr. Henry, in the first volume of his History of Britain, Append. p. 524, note 8.

“ All our antiquaries have agreed to place *Mandueffedum* at
 “ Manceter, which stands on the Roman military way, called
 “ Watling Street, and where many Roman coins * have been
 “ found. Camden and Gale derive its antient name from *Maen*,
 “ a rock; Mr. Baxter, from *Mandu Effedin*, a family seat or city;
 “ but perhaps it really was from *Mandu Huiccii*, the seat or
 “ capital of the Huiccii, the antient inhabitants.”

* In 1763 an urn full of Roman coins was dug up in the parish of Polesworth at Aucote, and at the same place, and not long after, a flint arrow head (see pp. 9. 17.). In 1778, another urn and coins in the manor of Knowle and parish of Hampton in Arden.

In the year 1723 or 1724, Dr. Stukeley visited the stations on the Watling Street to the North of High Cross, which journey, under the title of “*Iter Boreale*,” makes a part of the second volume of his “*Itinerarium Curiosum*,” published since his death in 1776, in which he says:

“*Mandueffedum* lies a little to the south of the bridge (Wittherly *), is an oblong square of six hundred feet in length and four hundred in breadth, divided equally by the Watling Street; that half which lies on the Leicestershire side is called the Oldfield, that on the Warwickshire side Castle Bank; the ditch and banks yet perfect, with a spring at the North East gate. The inhabitants informed me that bricks and exceeding strong mortar, with coins of brass, silver, and some gold, had been dug up, as also found in sinking of wells; that several vaults go quite through, and that cattle have sometimes dropped into them; that houses reach from the castle to the bridge, and that in a piece of ground called the Furlongs foundations of houses have been found; that the present church stands on a hill, where seems to have been a camp, the intrenchments very deep, but too irregular to have been Roman.”

The Doctor adds, that “Oldbury is a great camp on a high hill, whence a most delightful prospect, Shugbury, Erdbury, and Borough near Daventry, with the Watling Street as far as Watford Gap, are all in view.”

All these writers agree that at or near the remaining camp, on the Watling Street, was the site of the antient station, by the Romans called *Mandueffedum*; Salmon only excepted, who, taking no notice of this camp, and entirely disallowing the antiquity of the Watling Street, fixes the station at Oldbury,

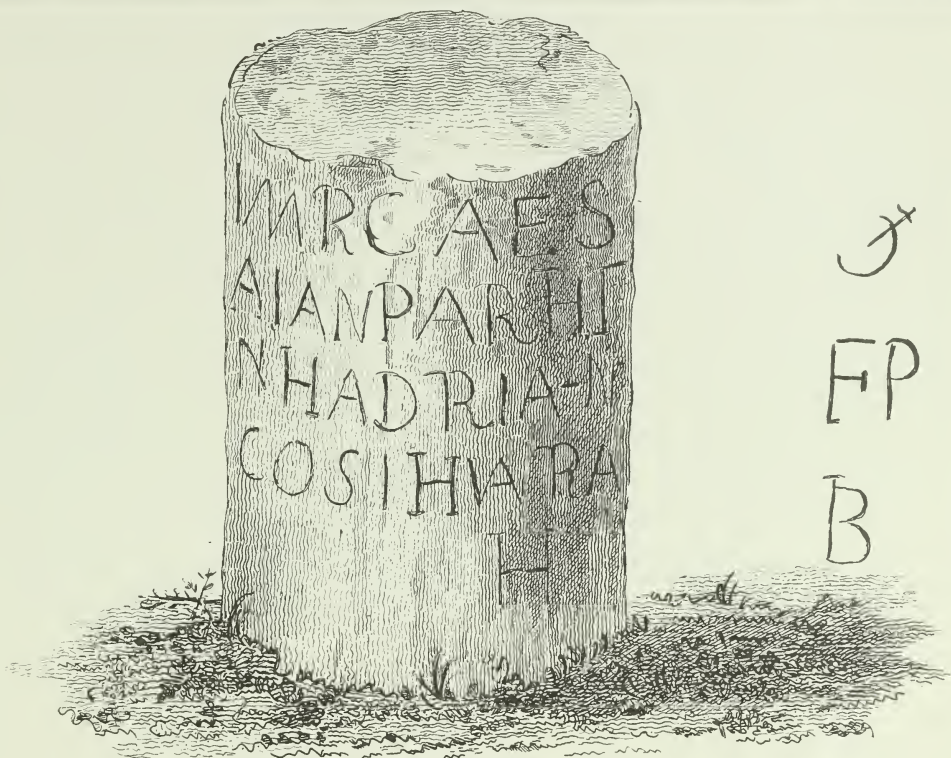
* In the county of Leicester.

undoubtedly their *Statio Æstiva*. Camden and Gale derive the name from *Maen*, a rock; but there is none nearer than Oldbury and Hartshill; and the narrow limitation of *Mandueffedum* to the city alone offers a seeming difficulty, which entirely vanishes if we do but enlarge our view: a fine situation on that road guarded by the camp, and washed half round by the river, a lofty summer camp, a spacious plain, and that guarded on the further side by another camp defended by a morass, are all strong proofs of the great judgement of the Romans in the choice of a rising settlement in the vast Arden; and as no other names were imposed on these appendages save the general one whilst the Romans remained here, they would only be known by the antient name of *Mandueffedum*, and so far as yet appears it continued so until the coming of the Saxons.

A. D. 78. Agricola succeeding to the government of this island, then nearly subjugated to the Roman yoke; in order to prevent their future defection, engaged the Provincials as much as possibly he could to inhabit the new founded cities, to embellish them with temples, porticos, and baths, &c. and to improve their late formed roads, the completion of which some think was reserved for the more happy days of Trajan and his successor Hadrian; and this is confirmed by the late discovery 1773 of a milliarium at Thurmaston, on the Foss road, two miles from Leicester *, inscribed,

IMR CAES
DIV TRAIAN PARTH^v F DIV NER
TRAIAN. HADRIAN AVG R
POT IV. COS. I. III. VA. RATIS
II.

* See an engraving of this milliarium in plate I. here annexed, from *Archæologia*, vol. VII. p. 89; and another, in its present state, as placed near the Belgrave Gate in Leicester, in Nichols's Collections for Leicestershire, plate XXX. p. 718.



IMRC AES
 DIV TRAIANPARTI
 TRAIANHADRIA-AVG
 POT MCOSI HVARATIS
 H

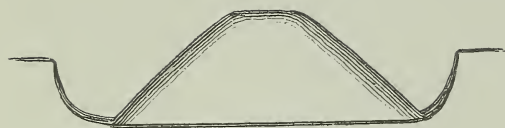


Fig. 1. p. 15.

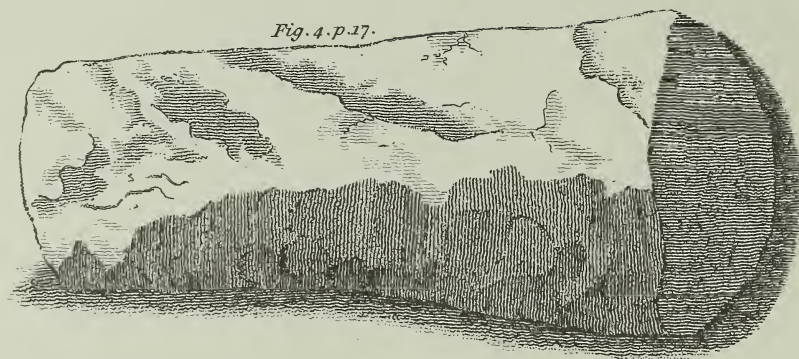


Fig. 4. p. 17.

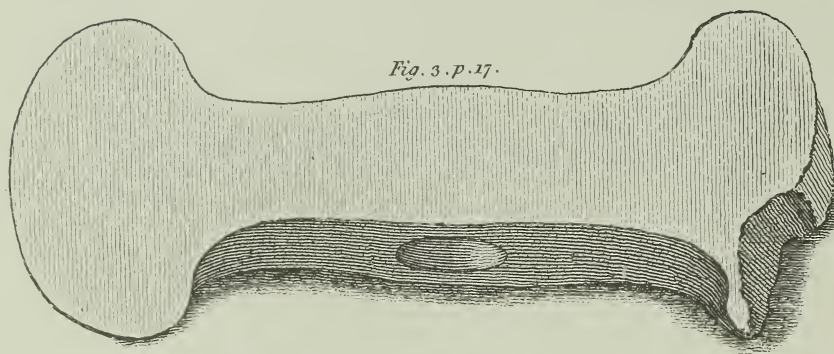


Fig. 3. p. 17.



Fig. 4. p. 17.



Fig. 6. p. 17.

Fig. 2. p. 15.

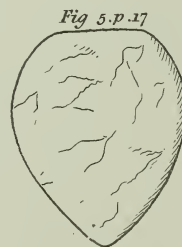


Fig. 5. p. 17.

As Hadrian entered his first consulate a few months before he was made emperor, and as the setting up of mile stones is usually the last work on the road, this Iter at least was finished in Trajan's days.

In the year 1773 a cottager in Hartshill having obtained leave to enlarge his little croft, inclosed an unnoticed tumulus which stood about one mile and three quarters South East from Oldbury. This tumulus (engraved in plate II. fig. 1.) is seventy-five feet wide at the bottom, eighteen feet across the top, and about twenty-five feet high, the height of the top being about twelve feet. On cutting down the tumulus, he found at the bottom, a little lower than the level of the surrounding ground, a brick pavement, about six feet square, with a hole at each corner, which he destroyed. The next year digging or plowing this ground over again, he found the stone exactly engraved in the same plate, fig. 2.

In 1777, the first time I had any intelligence thereof, I visited the place, which having been fresh ploughed, I picked up some fragments of bricks, the remains of the floor, one piece of a fine red, the other nearly vitrified, but both have been glazed, unless the effects of the fire by which the vitrification was produced. There is another tumulus or barrow adjoining the North West corner of the castellated wall of the old manor house, but much larger. As the Britons did not make bricks, nor the Romans use stone instruments, was not this the property of some Romano-Briton in the beginning of the sixth century when the Roman arts were many of them totally lost?

From this time history is entirely silent with regard to any transactions in the Arden untill the coming of the Saxons. The Romans quitted this island in the year 421. We are told they left it in a flourishing condition, that the inhabitants were possessed of large and splendid cities, good towns, and well inhabited villages,

villages, and that these were united by means of substantial roads. Amongst the first Nennius ranks our *Caer Manduguidb*; but however large and populous the city might have been, and however elegant the buildings public as well as private were, nothing now remains except the camp upon the road, to inform the enquiring traveller where the city of *Manduessedum* once stood; so that it may with the strictest propriety be said,

“ Nunc gramen est ubi Troja fuit.”

The chasm betwixt the departure of the Romans and coming of the Saxons into the Mercian domains, being a period of about one hundred and sixty-five years, seems to have passed over in peace and silence; no historian mentioning any quarrels or disputes to have happened in the Arden. During this long continuation of quiet, the Britons, a people extremely attached to their antient laws, customs, and habits, being no longer under the compulsive power of the Romans, insensibly returned to their original manufactories, with some small improvements, as appears by the stone battle-axe found in the barrow on Hartf-hill heath.

Before I quit this subject it may not be amiss to mention, from Sir William Dugdale, his account of the flint axes found on the North side of the camp at Oldbury, which had certainly been fabricated by the Britons before the Romans came over, and stone instruments such as they had been accustomed to make and use before the Romans settled amongst them, as appears by some of the first fort having been found at Oldbury in the time of Sir William Dugdale, which he thus describes :

“ On the North part of this fort have been found, by ploughing, divers flint-stones about four inches and a half in length, curiously wrought by grinding or some such way into the form here expressed; the end shaped much like the edge of a pole-axe; which makes me conjecture, that considering there
“ is

“ is no flint in all this country, nor within forty miles from
 “ hence, they being at first so made by the native Britons and
 “ put into a hole bored through the side of a staff, were made
 “ use of for weapons, in as much as they had not then attained
 “ the knowledge of working iron or brass to such uses.”

Of the second sort of stone, which is a very beautiful one, of a very different shape from that above described, this being wrought into the shape of a small battle-axe, with a hole in the centre *, through which the staff was to be put, one of the ends is ground very sharp, the other very blunt. It is of the hard blue stone of the country, but from age or the soil in which it has lain is now covered with an elegant olive-coloured patina. This was found by a cottager on the Campus Martius, now Hartshill Common, in 1770. He having obtained leave to enlarge his little croft, cut down a small unnoticed tumulus, the bottom of which was paved with bricks, which by the heat of fire had been nearly vitrified.

From the shape of the flint instruments it may be said, that they as well as the arrow heads of the same materials, one of which was some time ago found near Polesworth †, were the manufacture of the antient Britons; but that the stone axe was undoubtedly the fabrication of a Provincial or Romano-Briton, is evident, from its shape an improvement on the flint ones, and from its resting on a brick pavement ‡, which the Britons were ignorant of making. Another and much larger tumulus stands

* See plate II. fig. 3.

† One of these, a blackish flint, one side white, was found a few years ago in Aucote in Aval Cour wood, in the parish of Polesworth, not far from the place where the urn full of Roman brass coins of the Lower Empire (see p. 12.) was dug up. See plate II. fig. 4.

‡ Such a pavement covered the bottom of an antient Roman tomb discovered at York in 1768, inscribed LEG. IX. HISP. VIC.; one of the remaining soldiers, who after the fatal overthrow by the Iceni under Boadicea were incorporated into the sixth legion stationed at York, yet retained their old name. See p. 14.

about a quarter of a mile to the North West of this, but has not yet been opened: having been included in the limits of the great wood, the *Sylva Hugonis*, it is preserved entire. This tumulus, except on one side, has a very deep foss round it, the earth taken out having been employed in raising it; on the Southern side close adjoining, Hugh de Hardreshull built his castle or mansion.

Credda was the first Saxon commander who visited the Arden, which was in the year 585, about 135 years after their arrival in England, and about 165 years after the final departure of the Romans, when, having overrun all the midland counties, they founded the large kingdom of the Mercians. The Saxons disliking the narrow bounds of the Romano-British towns, which they did not want for their garrisons, the Provincials being either driven away, or totally subdued, soon formed different settlements. A few fixed on the Campus Martius of the departed Romans, and called their infant hamlet, *Arden's Hill*; afterwards, changing the N into an R, *Ardershill*, so afterwards written in Domesday. Some settled near the great or summer camp, which they called *Ealdbury*. A larger number laid the foundation of a town a little to the North of the old city, and upon the Watling Street, to which they gave the name of *Arden's Town*, soon after called *Addereston*, and afterwards in Domesday *Ardeston*. After this we find other towns rising in the Arden. A. 757 * at Sekindon Ethelbald the tenth king of Mercia, attended by his barons (amongst whom Leofric progenitor of the great Leofric earl of Mercia is numbered), fought with Cuthred king of the West Saxons †; and in the succeeding reign, we find a royal palace built at Tamworth, where

* In 755. Chron. Sax.

† Henry of Huntingdon, B. IV. p. 341. says that Cuthred used a red or golden dragon in this battle. "Aciebus igitur dispositis Edelhun præcedens Westsaxenses, Regis insigne, draconem scilicet aureum, gerens, transforavit vexilliferum hostilem." See Camden's Oxfordshire, Burford Bryant.

the great Offa, and his successors, Coenwulf, Bertulf, and Burgred, exercised their regal powers.

Offa's charter to the monks at Worcester concludes, "Ego
 " Offa sedens in regali palacio in Tamaworthige secundo die
 " nativitatis Domini, in die festivitatis beati Stephani martyris
 " concedens donavi, anno ab Incarnationis Christi DCCLXXXI.
 " Indictione quarta."

Coenwulf concludes.

" Acta est hæc donatio anno DCCCXIV. Indictione septima,
 " in vico celeberrimo qui vocatur Tamoworthig."

Bertwulf, in his charter granting divers privileges to the monastery of Stratford upon Avon, then called Ufera Stratford, inter alia,

" Quid plura? ab omni tribulatione noti et ignoti magni et
 " modici consistat in ævum quamdiu Fides Christianæ Reli-
 " gionis apud Anglos in Britanniae Insula remaneat. Gesta est
 " autem hæc donatio an. Dominicæ Incarn. DCCCXLV.
 " Indict. VIII. in loco regali qui dicitur Tomeworthig."

At Kingsbury also a regal feat, Bertwulf an. DCCCLI. held a grand baronial council, at which were present, besides the temporal barons, the pope's legate, one archbishop, six bishops, and three abbots.

Burgred concludes his charter DCCCLIV. "in vico celeberrimo qui Tomoworthig dicitur."

And here also we may conclude, that as Tamworth was at that time the Mercian capital; and as all these princes coined money, and some in large quantities, that certainly a mint was established here.

In the year 827, Egbert king of Wessex having conquered the Mercians, as he had already subdued the other kingdoms, declared himself sole monarch, and some little time after divided the nation into counties, or shires, the government of which in

many cafes was submitted to the ſheriff or vicecomes; the boundary of the county of Warwick in this part of the Arden, being the Watling Street. At this time alſo the name of the Arden was reſtrained to the preſent boundary, Worceſterſhire and Staffordſhire, taking to themſelves their reſpective ſhares, and giving to the ſeveral foreſts their preſent names. And ſome little time after this, Editha, his daughter, built the monastery of Poleſworth, where ſhe died, leaving behind her the name of Holy Edith. As an appendage to this houſe, a cell was ſoon after built at Oldbury.

That Leofric, who fought at Secandune, had poſſeſſions in the Arden is highly probable; yet Leofwine, the predeceſſor of Leofric the founder of the great monastery at Coventry, is the firſt recorded to be the owner of the church of Manceter, as well as of divers other lands in the Arden.

Leofric lived in the reign of Ethebald tenth king of Mercia. In 706 he was witneſs to the charter of king Ethebald to the monks of Croyland abbey, of which he was founder *.

Algar I. in the reigns of Offa, Coenwulf, and Wiglaf.

Algar II. in thoſe of Bertulf and Burgred. He was killed by the Danes under the command of Ungar and Ubba at Skrekingham, now Trekingham, in Keſteven, Lincolnſhire, and was buried at Croyland.

Leofric II. in the reigns of Ælfred and Edward I. The place of his interment is unknown.

Leofwine † (or as Camden writes it Leofftan) ſtyled *Comes Leiceſtriæ*, rather *Ceſtriæ*, lived in the reigns of Athelſtan, Edmund, Edred and Edgar; the place of his interment is unknown. He had three ſons, Leofric his ſucceſſor, Edwin ſlain

* Dugdale's Bar. v. I. p. 6. Ingulphus.

† This Leofwine is ſaid to have been poſſeſſor of the church of Manceter.

by the Welsh, and Norman by the Danes commanded by Canute, an. 1017.

Leofric III. after his father's death styled *Comes Leicestræ*, by Sir William Dugdale *Comes Cestræ*, and by others *Dux*. He was by Canute appointed captain general of his forces, and at his death greatly contributed to the advancement of Harold, in the reign of Hardicnute. He is styled *Comes Merciorum*, and, that peace might be continued in the kingdom, he valiantly suppressed the great insurrection at Worcester on account of the general tax. On the demise of Harold, he was amongst the first of those who raised Edward, called the Confessor, then in Normandy, to the regal throne; and afterwards with entire affection defended him from the malice of earl Godwine, and successfully opposed the rebellion raised by that earl.

He married Godiva, Goditha, or Godina, sister to Thorold of Buckenhale, *vicecomes* or sheriff of Lincolnshire, who in a donation charter to the abbey of Croyland says, “Ego Thoraldus
“de Buckenhale coram nobilissimo Domino meo Leofrico
“Comite Leicestræ, et nobilissima Comitissa sua Domina Godiva,
“sorore mea, et cum consensu et bona voluntate Domini
“et cognati mei Algari, primogeniti et hæredis eorum, donavi,
“&c. &c. *.”

He died the 2d of the calends of Sept. 1057, in the 16th year of the Confessor's reign, at his house at Bromley in Kent, and was buried in the monastery of his own foundation at Coventry. Godiva his lady succeeded, inter alia, to his estate here, possessing Manceter, Oldbury, Hartshill, and Atherston, which with Ansley in the Conqueror's Survey, are called “*Terræ Comitissæ Godivæ*
“*T. R. Edwardi.*” The time of her death and place of inter-

* In this charter the terms used by the subscribing witnesses are particular. Ego Lefwinus abbas Thorneiensis collaudavi. Ego Wulfgatus abbas Croilandiæ gaudens acceptavi. Ego Leofricus comes concessi. Ego Godiva comitissa diu istud desideravi. Ego Algarus comes concessi.

ment are uncertain; in the first volume of the *Monasticon* she is said to be buried at Coventry *.

Algar his son, after his father's death *Comes Merciorum*, was in the lifetime of his father appointed to the government of the East Angles; on the death of earl Godwine, he was invested with the title of *Comes Essexiæ*, which honour he enjoyed about four years, when Harold the eldest son of Godwine again ingratiating himself with the Confessor, procured his dismissal and banishment. Algar resenting this, fled into Ireland, where having raised some forces, he returned to England, and being joined by Griffith prince of Wales, encountered Radulf the king's general, and entering Hereford burnt it. A treaty then taking place, he was reinstated in his former government, which he held during the remainder of his father's life; the year after which, being a second time banished, he procured a fleet from Norway, and forces from Wales, by whose means he recovered his possessions. He died in the 18th year of the Confessor's reign, and was buried with his father at Coventry, leaving two sons, Edwine earl of Chester and Mercia, and Morcar in the 21st of the Confessor appointed governor of York, and also by Harold earl of Northumberland; and two daughters, Algitha and Lucia.

In the 1st of Harold 1066, William duke of Normandy engaged Tosti, much irritated against his brother Harold for the favours granted to Morcar (whose father and grandfather had uniformly opposed earl Godwine) to invade England, previous to his own attempt. Tosti carried this into execution, making a piratical war on the coasts, till he came into the Humber, where he landed his men on the Lincolnshire side, but was soon met by Edwin and Morcar, who defeated his forces, drove them

* In ambabus porticibus Coventriæ jacent ædificatores præcellentissimi conjuges scil. Comes Leofricus et Godiva uxor ejus; qui Leofricus obiit A. D. 1057. *Mon. Angl.* I. p. 9.

back to their ships, and obliged them to seek refuge in Scotland; but he returned soon after, with Harold Harfager king of Norway, who having subdued some of the Orkney Isles, intended a descent upon England. They came about the month of September into the mouth of the Humber, where meeting with no opposition they advanced to York. Morcar then governor, with his brother Edwine, desirous of saving the city, ventured to attack them though superior in numbers at Foulford, a village about a mile South East from York, but were defeated. The Norwegians entered York, but did not long enjoy their triumph, for Harold advancing met and fought with them at Stanford Bridge, six miles East of York, where after a most obstinate fight the king of Norway and Tosti both being slain, Harold obtained a compleat victory September 23, 1066, but being recalled on the landing of king William, left Edwin and Morcar to take care of the Norwegian spoils, which prevented their being present at Hastings, and consequently preserved for the present their honors and estates. This calm however did not continue long, for in 1068, greatly disliking the conduct of the Conqueror, they took some steps towards a revolt, but pushing the business too hastily, and William suddenly advancing upon them, they laid down their arms, and were received into favour. The next year another insurrection broke out, but gratitude prevented the brothers from engaging, notwithstanding which Morcar finding himself suspected retired with his brother to York, which was soon after besieged by the Conqueror. During the continuance of this siege, William granted all the estates of Edwin lying in Yorkshire to his nephew Alan earl of Britany, and afterwards of Richmond by the following charter:

“ Ego Gulielmus, cognomine Bastardus, Rex Anglie, do et
 “ concedo tibi Alano, nepoti meo, Britanie comiti, et heredi-
 “ bus tuis in perpetuum, omnes illas villas et terras que nuper
 “ fuerunt

“ fuerunt comitis Edwini in Eborasciria, cum feodis militum, et
 “ ecclesiis, et aliis libertatibus et consuetudinibus, ita libere et
 “ honorifice sicut idem Edwinus ea tenuit,

“ Dat. in obsidione coram civitate Eboraci.”

This grant, with the supposed form and ceremony of delivery by the Conqueror to his nephew, is engraved in Gale’s “*Registrum Honoris de Richmond*,” though at the same time Mr. Gale reprobates the grant as spurious, “*primo enim*,” he says, “*nunquam nisi in Registro nostro saltem in decerptis ab eo*” “*comparet; secundo, in centum et amplius quos consulimus*” “*chartis Willielmi, v. iis quæ vocantur per inspeximus ne*” “*semel quidem se dehonestavit Bastardo cognomine.*” He adds, Alan did not obtain those lands until after Edwin’s death.

On the surrender of the city the brothers made their escape, and Edwin again implored the assistance of the Scots and Welsh, as also of the now dispirited English, but meeting with no success, attempted to escape into Scotland. In his flight he was killed by the perfidious hands of three of his most intimate and trusted friends, who expecting a great reward brought his head to William, who, as a noble author says*, on the sight thereof wept as Cæsar did over that of Pompey, and instantly banished the assassins out of the realm.

Thus fell the illustrious and much lamented Edwin the last of the Anglo-Saxon Cestrian earls, and with him the barony of Manceaster; for now the Conqueror seizing it with the remainder of his estates, let it out to farm to Nicholas the farmer-general of those forfeited lands.

After the death of Edwin, Morcar with his friends retired into the Isle of Ely, where after a long siege he was taken prisoner,

* Lord Lyttelton, vol. I. p. 34.

in which situation he was continued during the remainder of the reign of the Conqueror, who on his death-bed relenting, directed him to be discharged; but he did not long enjoy this liberty, for on William Rufus's return to England, he was again imprifoned, in which ftate fo far as has yet appeared he died.

Of the two fifters the elder Alghitha * married Griffith prince of North Wales, and after his death remarried Harold fecond king of England, who was killed at Haftings, but had no iffue by either of them. After Harold's death fhe was by her brothers conveyed to Chefter, where fhe remained in private till her death, which happened in the latter end of the Conqueror's reign.

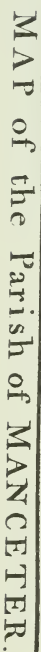
Lucia the younger married Ivo Taylebois †, who dying without iffue, fhe married Roger de Romara, by whom fhe had a fon William, who in 1122, 22 Hen. I. laid claim to thofe lands of his mother's inheritance, which Ranulf earl of Chefter her third hufband had exchanged with the king for his earldom. Being denied, he went into Normandy, where he raifed a rebellion in favour of William, the fon of Robert Curthofe, which continued about two years; when Henry agreeing to his claim, they were honorably reconciled.

* Lord Lyttelton, in his Life of Henry II. vol. I. p. 357, doubts of her exiftence, and quotes Ingulphus fub an. 1059. "*Strenuiffimus etiam Comes Algarus nostri monafterii femper amantiffimus &c. obiit, et Coventriæ juxta patrem pofitus requiefcit humatus, reliâtis liberis duobus filiis, fcil. Edwino et Morcario pofttea comitibus, et unica filia quæ nunc fupereft, comitiffa Lucia.*" As earl Algar was a particular friend to this monaftery, is it conceivable that Ingulphus fhould have been ignorant that Algar had another daughter, and fhe fo illuftrioufly married? It is alfo remarkable that the Saxon Chronicle takes no notice of this lady the queen of a Saxon king, nor the Welch History of a wife to king Grvffin.

† Baron of Kendal, and progenitor of William de Lancafter baron of Kendal.

Roger dying, she took a third husband, Ranulf de Meschines, nephew and heir to Hugh Lupus, on the death of his son without issue; and thus we see that Lucia by this marriage regained those Cestrian honors which her ancestors had enjoyed from the days of Athelstan, and left the same to her posterity in her son Ranulf de Gernons, of whom we shall speak again in Hardreshull. Her husband Ranulf dying 29 Henry I. 1129, was buried at Chester. In the fifth of Stephen 1140, she gave that king 266 l. 13 s. 4 d. for livery of her father's lands, and also a fine of 500 marks, that she should not be compelled to marry again for five years, being about 82 years of age. Soon after this she founded the monastery of Stickswold in Lincolnshire, to which the church of Salesby was appropriated, and also confirmed the manor of Spalding to the priory of Spalding, where she was afterwards buried.

Before I enter into a particular account of the several towns and hamlets composing this parish, it may not be improper to take notice of such laws and customs as were introduced by Edward styled the Confessor, who had resided many years in Normandy, or added by the Conqueror. Egbert had divided the whole nation into counties; Alfred subdivided the counties into hundreds; Edward the Confessor introduced manors and leets; but it does not appear that they were general until the Conquest, when the feudal system of the Normans was fully established, and the great census or survey faithfully executed, and recorded, now called Domesday. It was begun in the fourteenth year of his reign 1080, and finished in his twentieth year 1086.



In the Domesday survey :

TERRA COMITISSÆ GODEVÆ. IN COLESHELLE HĪD.

COMITISSA GODEVA tenuit T.R.E. *AILESPEDDE* *. Ibi sunt .^{or} IIII.

hidæ . Tra . ē . viii . caſ . Ibi sunt . viii . uiffi 7 i . bord cū . ii . caſ

7 dimid . Silua hē . i . leūu 7 dim lē . 7 unā leūu lat .

T.R.E. ualb . xl . fol . 7 poſt 7 modo . xxx . ſolid .

Ipfā comitiſſā tenuit in *ADERESTONE* . III . hid . Tra . ē . v . caſ .

Ibi sunt . xi . uiffi 7 ii . bord . 7 i . ſeruus cū . IIII . caſ .

Ibi . vi . ac pti . Silua . ii . leūu lē . 7 ii . leūu lat .

Valuit . xl . ſolid . Modo . lx . ſolid .

Ipfā comitiſſā tenuit in *ARDRESHILLE* 7 *HANSLEI* . ii . hid .

Tra . ē . vii . caſ . Ibi sunt . xiii . uiffi cū . v . caſ . Ibi . vi . ac pti .

Valuit . IIII . liſ . Modo . c . ſolid .

Each town was now created a manor, and at Hemlingford a leet, to which Hartſhill does ſuit, &c. and the lands are held in fee focage thereof.

Manors were formerly called baronies, now lordſhips, each lord or baron holding a domeſtic court, called the court baron, for redreſſing miſdemeanors and nuiſances within the ſaid manor, and for ſettling diſputes amongſt the tenants, two of which are neceſſary to conſtitute a manor. Hence the frequent mention of manors or reputed manors when reduced to one farm †.

A court-leet is a court of record held once a year, but now in many places twice, in a particular hundred, lordſhip, or manor, before the ſteward of the leet, being the king's court, granted by charter to the lord of ſuch hundred or manor.

* Meredene.

† All manors muſt have exiſted before the 18th of Edward I. when the ſtatute of *Quia emptores* was made, which enacts, that for the future no ſubject ſhall create tenants to hold of himſelf.

The Conqueror having in his sixth year created his nephew Hugh Lupus (son of Erminilda, his mother's daughter) by the earl of Chester; some time after, but not before so much of Domesday was finished as relates to Warwickshire, he gave him all the estate lately Edwin's the grandson of Leofric and Godiva, lying in this county; all which he and his descendant Ranulf de Meschines, (who by marrying Lucia the sister and heir of her brothers, and by paying a large fine became sole owner,) distributed to different persons, &c. of which I now proceed to treat separately.

Placita coram Rege. Hil. 14 Ric. II. Rot. 50. Warw.

“ Et dicit quod de ipso Leofrico, quia obiit sine herede de corpore suo descendente, advocatio ecclesiæ predictæ temp. Will. Conquest' Angl' cuidam Hugoni com' Cestrie ut consanguineo et heredi ipsius Leofrici, viz. filio Ermenilde sororis ejusdem Leofrici, et de ipso Hugone cuidam Richardo, & de ipso Richardo cuidam Ranulpho ut consanguineo et heredi, viz. filio Matildis sororis predicti Hugonis.”

This relates to the church at Coventry.

MANCEASTER, MANCESTER, MANCETER,

Built by the Romans, and by one of our earliest writers numbered with the primary cities of Britain, now a solitary village.

“ We muse and mark the sad decays

“ Of mighty works and mighty days *.”

According to Dr. Thomas †, it contains twenty-one families which are farmers. The old baronial mansion, with one farmhouse and several cottages, a part of this village, stands near the church; three farm houses in the grounds.

A list of the farm-houses in Manceter.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. The old baronial mansion, | Arthur Millar. |
| 2. Mrs. Hincks, | William Wightman. |
| 3. John Burton, | John Lloyd. |
| 4. Mrs. Worthington, | Her own. |
| 5. Vicar of Stoneley, | John Morewood. |
| 6. Vicar of Manceter, | Mr. Baker. |
| 7. The Plough-alehouse. | |
| Two cottages near the church. | |
| Cottages on the road and at Cold Arbor. | |

It still keeps its pre-eminence by being possessed of the mother church, and giving name to the parish. In the Conqueror's Survey it is not named, being with Oldbury involved in Atherston; a certain proof that its decline had at that time made great advances. In the time of Egbert the kingdom being divided

* Whitehead's Ode to the Tiber.

A subsequent writer temp. Edw. II. mentioning the four great roads or chemini regales, substitutes Atherston for Manceter.

† Edit. of Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 1079.

into counties, the line of division betwixt the counties of Warwick and Leicester in this parish being the Watling Street, such part of Manceter as lay on the North side of the road was added to Witherley in Leicestershire. This hamlet lies betwixt Atherston on the North West, and Hartshill on the South East, and betwixt Oldbury on the East, and the Watling Street on the West. We have already mentioned that, with the rest of the parish, it was given by the Conqueror to his nephew *Hugh Lupus*, whose descendant *Ranulf de Meschines* gave it and Oldbury to *Walter de Hastings* of Fillongley *, who soon after gave Manceter to *Wakeline*, from thence surnamed *de Mancestre*, reserving the fee; which descending in time to *Reginald lord Grey* †, he gave it with Barwell in Leicestershire to his third son *John*, who made it dependant on Barwell, of which it is this day holden. *Wakeline de Mancestre* built the present church: he confirmed the grant of *Walter de Hastings* to the nuns of Oldbury ‡, and was witness to a charter by which *Robert de Marmion* gave the church of Quinton co. Gloucester to the nuns of Poleworth, in the beginning of the reign of Henry II. ||. He was succeeded by *Walter de Mancestre*, who gave three acres of land and a mesuage in Manceter to God and the church of Manceter, and 7 Ric. I. 1196, joined with Henry Chud to levy a fine thereof §.

Hugh de Mancestre granted the nuns of Oldbury some special favours touching their mill **. His brother *William de Manceter* in the year 1217 was presented to the church of Quinton in Gloucestershire, which he resigned in 1221, and in the succeeding year was elected dean of Coventry and Lichfield;

* See their pedigree, Appendix N° I.

† See his pedigree in the Collections for Leicestershire, p. 428.

‡ See her charter, Appendix N° II.

|| Dugdale ex autog. penes T. Corbin gen.

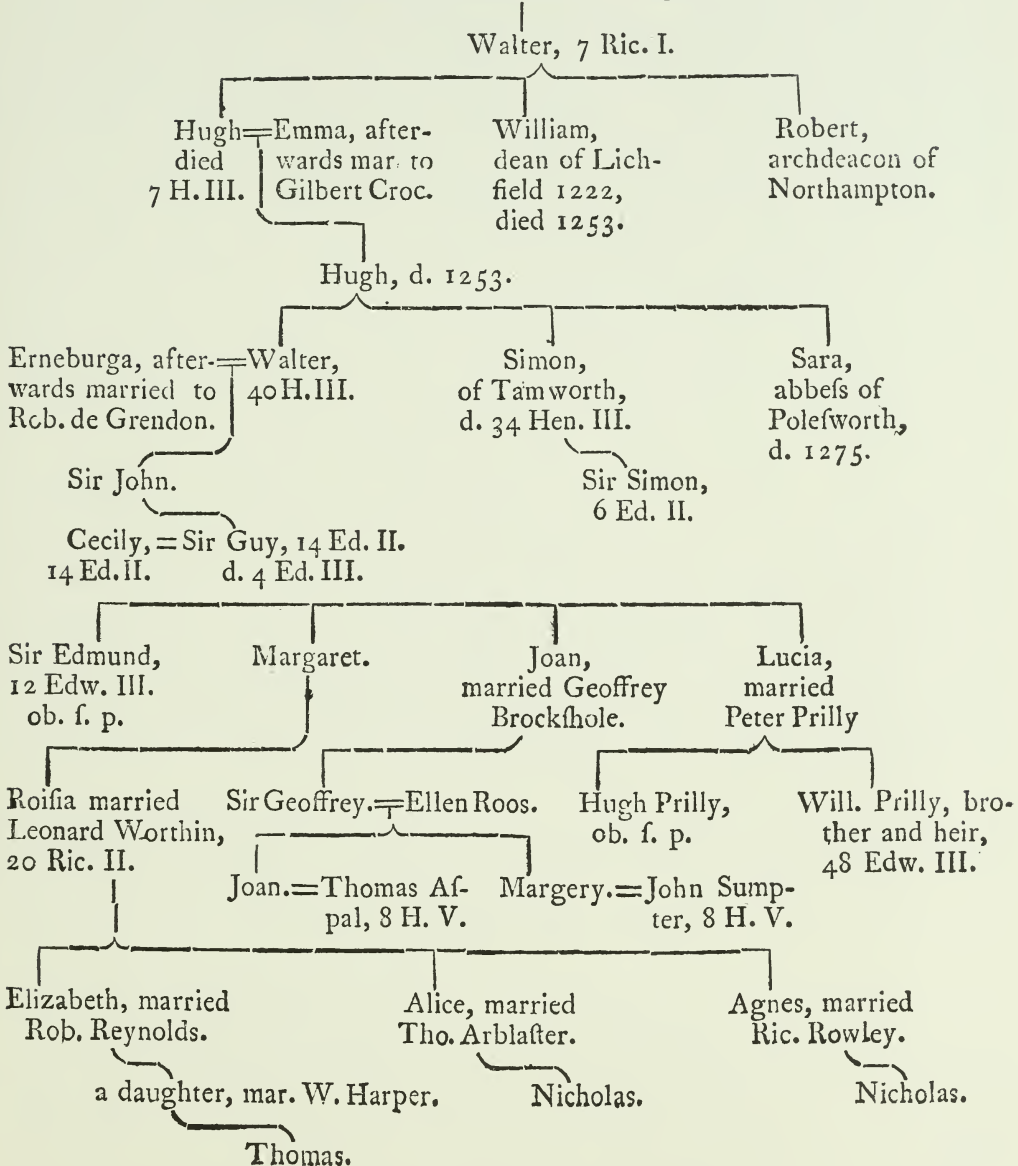
§ Id. ex autog. penes Fr. Netherfole eq. aur.

** Fin. lev. 7 R. I.

Pedigree of MANCESTRE.

(Enlarged from DUGDALE'S WARWICKSHIRE, p. 1077, 2d Edition.)

Walkelin de Mancester t. Stephen.



and in 1223, that see being vacant by the death of Alexander Stavenby, he was by the chapter of Lichfield elected bishop; but the chapter of Coventry not concurring with them, elected Nicholas de Farnham. William, preferring the peace of the church to the dignity and emoluments of the episcopal chair, would not dispute his election; but by continued intreaties at length prevailed with his chapter to withdraw their nomination, and allow him to remain in the deanry. He died February 7, 1253, 37 Henry III. * having in his lifetime founded the tenth chantry in the cathedral church of Lichfield †. Robert de Mancester was archdeacon of Northampton; the time of his election and death unknown ‡. Hugh de Mancester, the second of that name, succeeded his father 7 Henry III. 1223 ||, and in the twenty-ninth and the three succeeding years was one of the justices for the goal-delivery at Warwick §. 36 Henry III. he obtained a special charter of free warren for all his demesne lands here at Dunton and Drakenedge **, which were afterward allowed 13 Edward I. for which he gave eleven marks ††. At this time he was one of the coroners for this county ‡‡, and in the next year, 37 Henry III. appointed escheator §§; he was also witness to an assignment of one hundred marks from the executors of Philippa daughter of William Marneyon to the prior and convent of Canwell in Staffordshire, for the maintenance of

* Willis, Cath. I. 398.

† Monast. III. p. 239. Nomina Cantariorum in ecclesia cathedrali Litchfeldensi et fundatorum earundem.

Cantaria S^{ti} Petri p^r Willielmum de M^{ncester}, 10 s. 11 d. Decim. valor.

‡ Le Neve, p. 161. MS. Cot. Tiberius, E. 5. f. 128.

|| Fin. levat. 15 Hil. 16 Hen. III.

§ Pat. de iisd. ann. in d.

** Cart. 36 Hen. III. m. 27.

†† Rot. F. 36 Hen. III. m. 22.

‡‡ Claus. 36 Hen. III. m. 31.

§§ Claus. 37 Hen. III. m. 3.

one monk to celebrate for the souls of herself and predecessors. He died in 1253 *, leaving by his wife Emma, afterwards married to Gilbert de Croc, two sons and one daughter, viz. Walter, Simon, and Sarra.

Walter succeeded to this lordship, and 40 Henry III. had by grant from Robert de Wichford, at the request of Robert de Grendon, Dofthull, alias Dofethull, now Dofthill, settled upon him subject to the annual payment of a pair of gilt spurs at Easter, and of performing the service of half a knight's fee, with remainder on failure of issue to the heirs of the said Robert de Wichford. He married Erneburga, who after his death became the wife of John de Grendon.

His brother Simon settled within the manor of Tamworth †. In the reign of Edward I. we find him amongst the knights serving in his wars, and bearing Vaire Argent and Sable, on a bend Gules three eagles Or ‡. He left two sons, Simon and Henry, the elder of whom Sir Simon de Mancester served as representative for this county in the thirty-fourth parliament of Edward I. and also in the parliament held at Westminster, 6 Edward II. ||. He distinguished his arms from his father's arms, bearing three lions on his bend instead of eagles. His son Sir Simon, the third of that family, served in the twelfth parliament of Edward III.

Sarra the daughter of Hugh was appointed abbess of Polefworth, December 5, 45 Henry III. 1270, and died 5 Edward I. 1275.

* Claus. 37 Hen. III. m. 7.

† Mores' Nomina et Insignia &c. Oxford, 1749, p. 71.

‡ In Sir William Dugdale's time a place there, moated, though stripped of its buildings, continued to bear the name of Mancester. Edit. Thomas, p. 1079.

|| Claus. 6 Edw. II. in d. m. 5.

John de Mancestre, knt. son of Walter, 13 Edward I. covenanted to discharge the nuns of Polesworth from any scutage in respect of their lands situate in Manceter and Oldbury *; and about that time claimed a court by prescription within this manor, as also free warren by virtue of king Henry's grant to his father, which were allowed him †. He married the heir of Ralph de Ringeston, who brought him Corley, which he held of the Hastings by half a knight's fee. 16 Edward I. he was in the king's army in the Welsh expedition under the command of Edmund earl of Cornwall ‡, and bore for his arms, Vaire Argent and Sable a bend Gules §. On the death of John Hastings, baron Bergavenny, by an inquisition then taken, 6 Edward II. it appeared that Manceter was of the fee of the Hastings.

Guido de Mancestre, Knt. He married Cecilia, daughter of; and settled Dosthill on themselves and heirs, 6 Edward II. In 1313 he levied a fine of the manor of Manceter, which he settled upon himself and heirs, giving at the same time *unum spervarium fors*, one soar hawk. He died seised of the manor of Manceter, valued at twenty-two pounds per annum, on the Monday next after the feast of St. Laurence, 4 Edward III. lord of Mancestre, Corley, and Dosthill, and having passed Drakenedge by the name of a manor to Robert de Herle and his heirs. He left a son

Edmund, who engrailed his father's bend. Nothing appears on record, save a fine levied at York, 12 Edward III. in Michaelmas

* Dugdale ex autog. penes F. N. arm.

† Rot. 3 de Quo Warr.

‡ Walsingh. p. 15.

§ Ex autog. penes dec. et cap. Lichfield.

Fin' lev' mens' Pasch' 6 Edw. II. Inter Guidonem fil' Joh' de Mancester, quer', et Willielmum de Kynebaldely et Johan' uxorem ejus deforc', de maner' de Mancestr' cum ptinentiis. Jus ipsius Guidonis, tenend' sibi et heredibus in ppetuum, et pro hoc idem Guido dedit &c. unum spervarium fors.

term, of one messuage, one caracute of land, and six acres of meadow, in Drakenedge and la Lee, and of the advowson of the church in Manceter. Dying without issue male, his three sisters, *Margaret*, *Joan*, and *Lucia*, divided the estate; viz. *Margaret*, the eldest, left a daughter *Roisia*, or *Rose*, married to *Leonard Worthyn*, by whom she had three daughters, viz. *Elizabeth*, married to *Robert Reynolds*, whose daughter married *William Harpur*; *Alice*, the second daughter, married *Thomas Arblaster*, who left a son *Nicholas*; *Agnes*, the third daughter, married to *Richard Rowley*, and left a son *Nicholas*. The descendant of the eldest daughter *Thomas Harpur*, the last of that name in this place, sold his share, one ninth, to *John Glover* of *Baxterley*, in which share the manor-house was included. From the *Glovers* it descended by marriage to the *Grammers*, a descendant of whom built and endowed the alms-houses as hereafter will be related, and from them to *Matthew Abell*, whose sister *Rhode Dix* conveyed it to *Susanab Millar*, whose son the *Rev. Arthur Millar*, now (1779) enjoys it, and having some years ago given the old manor-house a compleat repair, resides in it. The shares of *Arblaster* and *Rowley* in the reign of *Edward VI.* came to *Richard Lewes*, of whose great grand-child *George* they were purchased by *William Cumberford* of *Cumberford*, co. *Stafford*, Esq. *Humphrey Cumberford*, Esq. sold them to *Robert Wood* of *London*, 1636, whose son *William* sold them in 1685 to *Samuel Stephenson*, whose great grand-daughter *Ester Hinks*, now (1779) enjoys them.

Joan the second daughter, married —— *Brockshole**, whose son *Sir Jefferey Brockshole*, Knt. of *Great Stamford*, *Effex*, was summoned to parliament 2, 17 and 18 *Edward III.* for the county

* *Brockshole* bears, Or, a chevron betwixt ten cross crosslets Gules. Sumpter, Argent, a chevron Sable betwixt three towers Gules.

A CHRONOLOGICAL CHART, exhibiting at one View the several Lords of the Manor of MANCETER successively; from the Time of King Stephen to the present Æra 1777.

From a Copy given by Mr. BARTLETT in 1777.

MANCETER MANOR.

- abt. 1135 WALKELINE de MANCESTRE, Lord thereof in King Stephen's time, in which Family and Name it continued till Richard II. when SIR EDMUND de MANCESTRE, great great great great Grandson of the said WALKELINE, dying
abt. 1377 without Issue, left the Inheritance of this Lordship to the Children of his three Sisters,
MARGERY, JOANE, LUCY,
to whom it descended
in three undivided shares.

One Third Part

Came to

- abt. 1397 ROSE, Daughter of said MARGERY, & Wife of Leonard WORTHYN, from whom it descended to SIR THO. HOLT of Gristleburge Lan. who sold it to
1543 ROBT. GREEN, & THO. LUDFORD, of Atherstone, of Wytherley, whose share, being whose share came half one third, came to by Intermarriage with Joyce his Grand-daughter to
abt. 1570 ABRA. COOK, whose son Isaac Cook sold his half third of the Manor to
1626 Rd. WHITEHALL, from whom it came by marriage with Dorothy his grand-daughter to
1656 JOHN FARMER, whose grandson John devised same to his Nephew ROW. OKEOVER, Esq; whose son Rowland Farmer Okeover, Esq; now enjoys it.
1777

One other Third Part.

Came to

- abt. 1397 SIR GEFERY BROKUSHOLE, son of the said JOANE, and from him to his Daughters JOANE, the Wife of THO. ASPALL, and MARGERY, the Wife of JOHN SUMPTER, from whom this third Part came to
1432 WILL. HARPER, whose descendant Tho. Harper sold his share (viz. a ninth part) with the Manor House to JOHN GLOVER, in whose family it was in 1656, from whom it came to
1677 FRANCIS GRAMER, whose eldest son and heir Tho. Gramer conveyed the same in 1704 to his next brother James Gramer in Fee, who by Will devised the same, except the ground on which certain Alms-houses were to be built, to his sister Susan Rogers for life, Remainder to his Nephew,
1724 MATHEW ABELL, in Fee, who by Will devised same to his sister Rhoda Dix in Fee, who conveyed same to
1740 SUSANNA MILLER in Fee, whose only son and heir the Rev. Arthur Miller, Clerk, is now possessed thereof.
1777

The remaining Third Part

Came to

- abt. 1377 PRILLEYS, the descendants of LUCY, the wife of PETER PRILLEY, whose descendant ANN, the daughter of EDMUND PRILLEY, intermarried with
abt. 1422 WAVER, whose grandson Ric. Waver, in 7th Henry VII. sold it to
1492 RICH. CAVE, of Standford, who by deed, dated 20th July, 9th Henry VIII. past same (*int. alia*) to
1518 WILL. FIELDING, of Newnham, Esq; whose great grandchild, Basil Fielding, Esq; sold it to
1623 ALICE Lady DUDLEY's Trustees, about the 20th James, who soon after conveyed it to
KING JAMES I. to the end that he SHOULD (and who by Letters Patent 14th Sept. 20th of James DID) grant the Manor, &c. and part of the lands to THE VICAR of STONLEY and his successors, in whom this part of the Manor still remains.
1777

1777 JOHN HINKS, of Chester, Esq; deceased,) the present owner thereof.

of Herts, and 9 Richard II. served the office of sheriff for both counties, Essex and Herts, these counties being united until the reign of Elizabeth. He married Ellen the daughter of Sir John Roos, and had issue two daughters, Joan successively wife to Philip Hadington, Thomas Aspell, and Robert Armburgh, who died without any issue. In 22 Henry VI. the following fines were levied between John Thornton and Nicholas Dautre querent', and Robert Armburgh and Joan his wife deforc', de medietate tertiæ partis manerii de Manchester vocat Brocksholes jus Johannæ *, who conveyed it to Robert and Joan for their lives, and the remainder to Sir Philip Thornbury, John Brockhole, clerk, Henry Garstang, Robert Armburgh, and John Palmer. The second daughter Margery married James Bellers: he dying without issue, she married John Sumpter of Colchester, whose daughter and heir Ellen was married to Ralph Holt of Grislehurst, co. Lancaster, Esq. whose great grand-son Sir Thomas Holt †, in 1543, sold this his third part to Robert Green of Atherston. Thomas Ludford of Witherley in 1551 sold his share or moiety to John Rudding. Green's share, the other moiety, descended to his grand-daughter Joyce, who married Abraham Cook, whose son Isaac ‡ sold it in 1626 to Richard Whitehall of Oldbury, from whom it came by marriage with Dorothy his grand-daughter, to John Farmer of Badgley, Esq. whose grand-son John devised it to his nephew Rowland Oakover with Oldbury as there is related, and whose son Rowland Farmer Oakover, Esq. now enjoys the same.

* Div. Com. Mich.

† The Holts bore, Argent, upon a bend engrailed Sable three fleurs-de-lis of the field.

Elizabeth, heir general of the Holts, married Richard Beaumont, Esq. of Whitely, co. Ebor. 13 Jan. 1747, æt. 19.

‡ Before this sale he charged two of the closes with finding or providing bell-ropes for the three largest bells.

Rudding's share in process of time was divided into several parcels, one of which is the property of John Lloyd, grand-son of Robert.

Lucia, the third daughter, married Peter Prilly, whose son Thomas dying without issue in the reign of Henry VI. Anne their daughter and heir general married Thomas Waver *, who left a son. She married to her second husband Thomas Porter, but he did not live long with her, for 28 Henry VI. 1450, she joined in the sale of the advowson by the name of Anne Porter. Her grand-son, Richard Waver, sold his third part, 7 Henry VII. 1492, to Richard Cave of Stanford in Northamptonshire, who July 20, 9 Henry VIII. 1518, exchanged it with Henry Fielding, Esq. of Newnham, whose great grand-son Basil sold the same to lady Alicia Dudley or Duddeley †, who in the same year settled it in such parcels as she thought proper, upon six poor vicarages as by the patent of settlement will more fully appear. The manerial rights she assigned to the vicar of Stoneley.

* Waver bears, Argent, on a fess Sable three escalops Or.

† The daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh, and the wife of Sir Robert Dudley of Kenilworth, by whom she had four daughters. In order to avoid some malicious prosecutions Sir Robert obtained a licence to go abroad for three years, which he carried into execution, leaving his lady and their four daughters at home. He was soon after recalled, but refused to return, for which his estate was seized, and vested in the crown during his natural life. He settled at Florence, where he was much honoured by Cosmo II. and his consort, the emperor Ferdinand II's sister, who made him her great chamberlain, and also procured for him a patent dated March 9, 1620, creating him a duke of the holy Roman empire, by virtue of a dispensation from the pope; he married Elizabeth the daughter of Sir Robert Southwell, whom he had engaged to accompany him abroad. This marriage occasioned that singular statute, allowing lady Alicia to sell or otherwise dispose of her jointure during Sir Robert's life-time; by virtue of which, 22 James I. she by her last will gave out of the manor of Fausley in Northamptonshire forty pounds per annum, for the support and repair of the chapel at Warwick, built by Richard Beauchamp; the surplus, if any, to the poor of the hospital of Warwick of the foundation of her father, Robert Dudley earl of Leicester, so created by queen Elizabeth.

Lady

Lady Alice Dudley in the same year, July 20, conveyed this estate to king James, which he granted by her directions to five poor vicars of the county of Warwick.

Extract of lady Dudley's settlement of an estate in Mancetter by grant of James I. July 20, A. R. 20. on six vicars of Mancetter, Leeke Wotton, Ashow, Kenelworth, Monks Kirby, and Stoneley, for the augmentation of these small vicarages, twenty pounds per annum apiece, provided the said incumbents preach one sermon every Sunday throughout the year, and upon every Whitsunday a commemoration of the said lady Dudley and her daughter Alicia then deceased, who by her will bequeathed most of her estates to her said mother, to be disposed of as she thought fit, in Warwickshire.

“ Alice lady Dudley, wife of Sir Robert Dudley of Killingworth, alias Kenelworth, co. Warwick, knt. in pursuance of the will and verbal directions of Alizia Dudley her daughter, bearing date October 1619, having purchased of Basil Fielding, Esq. William lord viscount Fielding and Sir Thomas Brook, Knt. the fee and inheritance of the manor of Manceter, alias Mancetter, with the appurtenances thereto belonging, did by his majesty's consent, and by John Kent and John Chelfea, of St. Giles in Middlesex, servants to her the lady Dudley, convey to his majesty, to be by him regranted to such poor vicars, and in such portions as she should nominate and appoint, the same consisting of the aforesaid manor of Manceter, with all the rights, members, and appurtenances thereof, and all those meadows, closes, and pastures, called Moreleife, the Little Harpers, the Middle Harpers, and the two meadows adjoining, the one called the Hay-meadow, the other the Morley meadow, a messuage, house and homestead, and one close called Stocking Laund, one close called Crabtree close, one meadow called Stockinglaund meadow, the

the pasture called the Launds, four acres of inclosed lands in the tenure of William Moseley, ten acres of arable land lying next Atherston, one parcel of ground called Bucklee More, a close called Bondfield, one close parcel of the Bottomfields, all those closes called Bottomfields and Purley Park, and all those woods called the Out Woods, containing by estimation forty acres or thereabouts, all that Myln, Myln Holme, and the Hemp-leek, with all the messuages, cottages, tofts, mills, dovehouses, orchards, gardens, demesne lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, underwoods, moors, heaths, waters, fishings, commons, rents, reversions, services, courts, leets, liberties, franchises, rights, royalties, jurisdictions, emoluments, profits, commodities, hereditaments, whatsoever to the said manor and premises, or any part thereof belonging or appertaining or reputed, taken or known as part, parcel, or member, thereof, lying and being in the parishes, towns, and hamlets, or fields of Manceter, alias Mancester aforesaid.

“ Et memorandum quod quarto die Septembris, anno superscripto, pifat’ Johannes Kent et Johannes Chelfeg, gen. venerunt coram dicto D’no Rege in Cancellaria sua, et recognoverunt indenturam predict’ ac omnia et singula in eadem content’ et specificat’ in forma predicta.

“ Irrotulat’ quarto die Septembris an’ predict’.”

A true copy of the original record, remaining in the chapel of the Rolls, having been examined.

Hen. Rook, Clerk of the Rolls.

These lands &c. are thus divided, viz.

To Richard Abell, M. A. the messuage house, one close called Stockinglaund, the Crabtree close, and the Stockinglaund meadow.

The Bondfield.

The

The Myln, Myln Holme, and Hempleek.

One clofe called the Seven Acres, part of the manor of Manceter, with all appurtenances and rights to the faid premifes belonging.

To Nicholas Langridge, the lands containing by eftimation eighteen acres, one clofe called Fox Clofe four acres, ten acres lying in the town field of Manceter next Atherftone, Berchley-moor feven acres.

To Timothy De Lene, B. A. two parts in three to be divided of the two closes called Bottom Fields, feventy-two acres, with all the rights, members, and appurtenances, rents referved, &c.

To John Buft, M. A. the third part of the two closes called Bottom Fields, Purley Park, fifty acres lying in the town fields of Manceter, with the meffuage and buildings thereon.

To Richard Stapylton, B. A. one moiety or half of the Fower Morleys, of the Little Harpers, and of the two meadows called Hay-meadow and Morley-meadow.

To Richard Belingham, B. A. one moiety or half of the afore recited Fower Morleys, the Little Harpers, and the two meadows called Hay-meadow and Morley-meadow.

The Middle Harpers or Wood Clofe in the town fields of Manceter, and alfo all and fingular fuch and the fame ref and refidue of all and fingular the faid manor of Manceter or Mancefter.

This lady had a patent granting her powers to ufe the ftyle of dutcheffs. She died January 22, 1668-9, and was buried in Stoneley church.

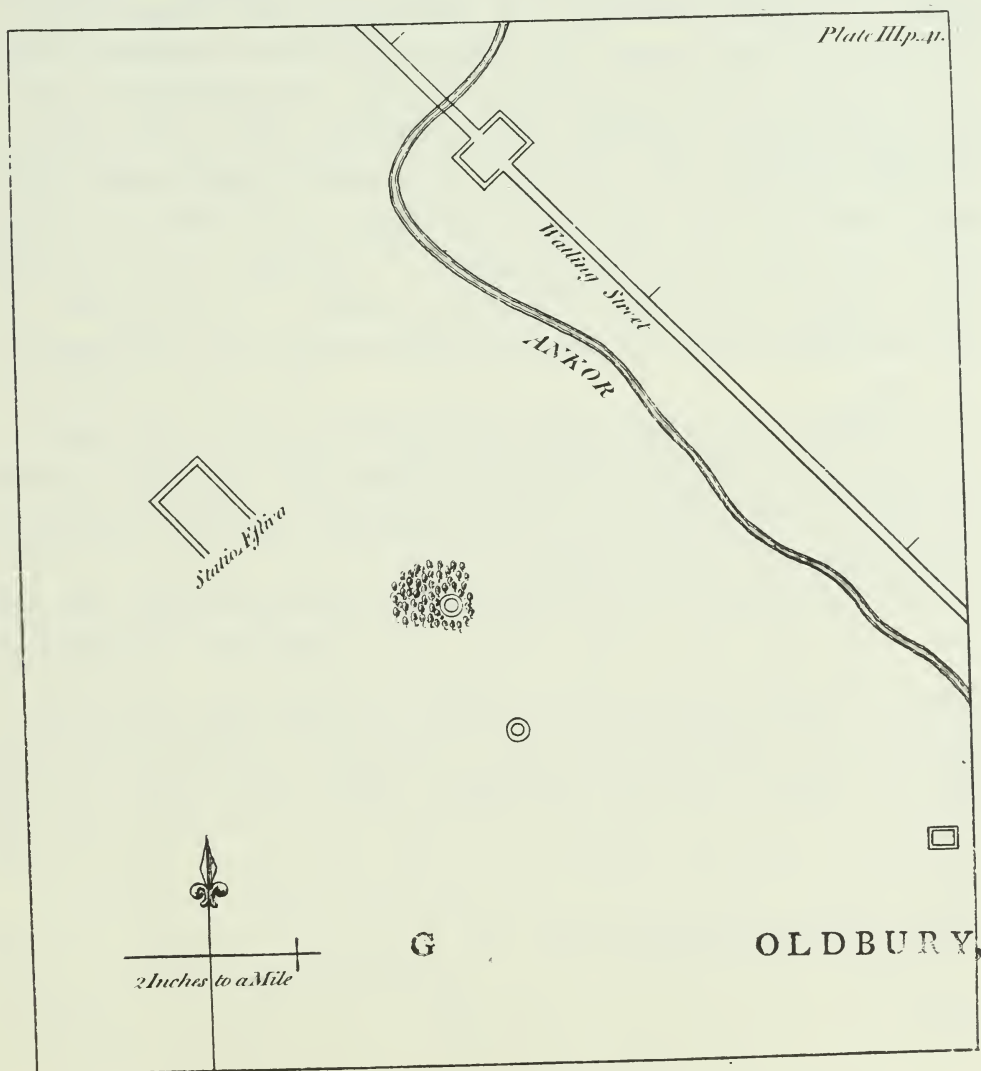
In the year 1726, December 13, died Mr. James Grammer, citizen and goldfmith of London, being in right of his mother heirefs to the Glovers. He gave by will two thoufand pounds for the building and endowing an alms houfe capable of entertaining fix perfons, by the following claufe :

“ I give two thousand pounds for the endowment of an alms house for six poor men, to be built in my orchard in Mancester, adjoining the church-yard; the wall now parting the said orchard and church-yard to be taken down, and palisadoes to be put before the said alms-houses of six or eight yards deep, the alms-houses to be about ten feet high between the floors and cielings, and a different apartment for each poor man, and all of them to be wainscoated, slated, and strong built with the best bricks, and to be folding-doors in each apartment for the conveniency of a bed, and a chimney to each room; to have a pump in the said court-yard for all the six men in common if it can possibly be made. The abovementioned two thousand pounds to be laid out in land, and the interest to be applied for the maintenance of the six alms-men at five shillings each weekly, the overplus to be laid out in repairs as occasion shall require. The charge of building the said alms-houses to be paid for out of my estate, over and above the said two thousand pounds. The men that are to inhabit the said alms-houses to be threescore years of age, having always borne an honest character of good churchmen, and such as have been housekeepers in Mancester or Atherston, nevertheless the housekeepers of Mancester to have the preference as vacancies shall happen. And that all the poor men shall be obliged to receive the sacrament three or four times a year, and to hear and join in the prayers of the church upon all Sundays and holydays, provided that they are in health; and I do order that in case any of the said poor men, after they are admitted into the said alms-houses publicly beg or ask alms, that then they shall immediately be turned out, and another poor man placed in his room.”

In

In 1728 the alms-houses were built and finished agreeable to the will. In the centre is an ornamented compartment, and at the top a shield of his arms, Sable a lion rampant between six billets Or.

He also left ten pounds per annum to the poor of Atherston; and two closes, the rent of which he directs to be laid out in grey coats and hats for such a number of poor men as the said rent will provide.



Mauduefsedum Romanorum.

O L D B U R Y,

A L D B U R Y O R W O L D B U R Y.

IN this village, undoubtedly a part of the Roman *Manduesjedum* *, a chapel dedicated to St. Lawrence, with some buildings inhabited by some nuns from Polesworth, were erected before the Conquest; the time indeed uncertain. Bishop Tanner † says the account given of this place in the *Monasticon* is legendary. Towards the latter end of the Conqueror's reign, Robert Marmion, lord of the castle of Tamworth, drove away the nuns from Polesworth, who retired hither. The next year he recalled them, leaving a very few of the sisters behind. Leland ‡ gives us the following charter of the said Robert Marmion and Millecent his wife :

“ Notum sit omnibus nos concessisse Ofannæ priorissæ ad
 “ relig. instaurandam sanctimonialium ibi ecclesiam sanctæ
 “ Edithæ de Poleswordia cum pertinentibus, ita quod conventus
 “ de Aldeberia ibi sit manens.”

In the Conqueror's Survey Oldbury is not mentioned. It was given with the rest of the estate late Edwin's to *Hugh Lupus*, and by his descendant, as is related in *Manceter*, to *Walter de Hastings*, which said Walter and Athewise his wife, in the presence of Roger de Clinton bishop of Coventry, by their special charter, gave to the nuns of Polesworth then inhabiting the cell at Oldbury, the site thereof as at the time when Ofanna was

* Of which see the plan in p. 41.

† Not. Mon. p. 570. note.

‡ Collect. I. 27.

priores, with all Stiperhull, in fields and woods down to the midit of the valley on that side of Manceter; also a certain part of the woods lying on the South East of Oldbury, and extending to the rivulet which comes from Hardreshull, and all those grounds called Calve Croft and Birchley, lying betwixt the two ways, *scilicet* Mere Street and Birchley Street, unto Hugh's Wood, now Hartshill Hays.

See Appendix, N^o II. and III.

The grant abovementioned was confirmed by a subsequent one of Hugh fil. Richard.

See Appendix, N^o *III.

This Hugo filius Ricardi, or de Hatton, of which he was lord, was a great friend to the monks. He founded the monastery of Wroxhall, confirmed the manor of Newnham in this county to the canons of Kenelworth, and also gave them lands in Lillington. To the priory of Warwick he gave the church of Snitfield, and to the nuns of Poleworth confirmed the grant of Oldbury of his fee.

This grant was confirmed by the bishop of Chester, then lord of the fee. Soon after this, Walter de Hastings gave Oldbury to *Wakeline de Manchester*, who confirmed his predecessor's grant to the said nuns, using the words *concessi* and *confirmavi*, and describing the lands and bounds as in the aforefaid charter of Walter de Hastings.

The manor of Oldbury contains five hundred and eighty acres, four farms, and one cottage: to the West is a place called Ridgelande, in which are some houses that do not belong to this manor.

A modus or annual payment of 1*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* is paid to the vicar of Manceter in lieu of the tythe agiftment given to the church by Harrington Drayton.

From the Rolls in the Tower of London.

Tallagium contra W. Hamelyn, temp. Edw. I.

“ Villata de Mancestre.

Prima medietas dim' marci.

Secunda medietas xvi s. ii d.”

From the Exchequer, N° 34.

From the book of fifteenths and tenths.

“ Manceter villa xviii s.”

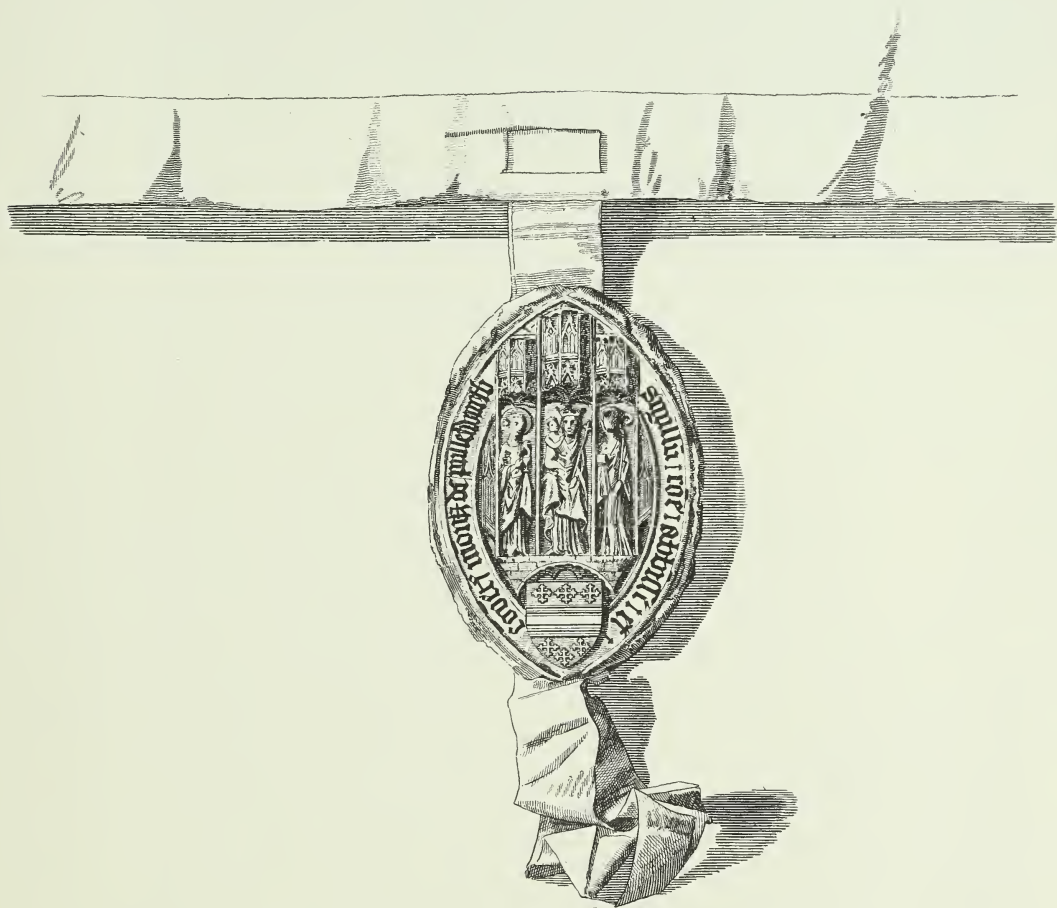
Ralph Boteler gave to the nuns here residing two yardlands in Waverton with his daughter, whom he placed there to be a nun *.

Robert de Betun, bishop of Hereford, about 1135, in the reign of Stephen, remitted fifteen days penance to all such as would contribute to the nuns' buildings here.

In the reign of Edward I. a long and tedious controversy betwixt these nuns and the parson of Manceter about the rights to the oblations made in the chapel of St. Laurence at this place, and the tythes of corn of two pieces of inclosed land, lying one piece on the South, and the other on the North side of the house, was determined, viz. that the nuns should peaceably enjoy them; in consideration whereof, they should yearly on Michaelmas day bring to the church of Manceter three pounds of wax, and there before noon deliver the same to the parson on the high altar. Provided nevertheless if it did happen that any great miracle there wrought should bring a multitude of offerings, such extraordinary gifts to be equally divided betwixt the said nuns and the parson. And also provided, that the priest officiating here should not admit any of the parishioners of Manceter, on Sundays or holydays, either to the sacrament or

* Dugdale, ex autog. pen. J. Roper, arm.

*Omniſſibꝫ Criſtifiſdelibꝫ ad quod pꝛiꝫ ſcriptꝫ pꝛuenerit nob
abbatiffa monaſterij monachꝫ de poſſworthe ordinis ſancti Benedicti
in ſonꝫ ſuarꝫ et eiꝫſꝫ loci conventꝫ &c*



*The Seal of the Monastery of Polesworth. from the Original
in the Augmentation Office, June 18th, 1789.*

B. Pouncy delin^t

J. Cary sculp.^t



South West View of Oldbury.

divine service, without the express licence of the parson or his deputy. This agreement bears date on the eve of the feast of St. Philip and St. James the Apostles, 1284, 12 Edward I. *

The lands lying in Oldbury and belonging to the nuns were 26 Henry VIII. valued at six pounds, ten pence; and coming to the crown with the monastery of Polesworth 30 Henry VIII. were in the thirty-third of the same reign granted to *Charles Brandon* duke of *Suffolk*, by the name of "Dominium et manerium de Oldburie, ac capitale messuagium de Oldburie, &c. "monasterio de Polesworth dudum spectans."

The duke immediately passed the same unto *Robert Green* †, who 3 Elizabeth sold it to *James Symmings*, M. D. He did not keep it long, for 21 Elizabeth, *Jasper Fisher* died seised thereof, leaving it to *Catharine Norwood*, widow, and *Anne* the wife of *Richard Woolrich*, his cousins and heirs. After this it came again to the crown, for in the 3d of James I. Sir *Edward Stanhope* and *Edward Littleworth* had a grant of it in fee. From them it came to *Richard Whiteball*, whose grand-daughter *Dorothy* conveyed the same by marriage to *John Farmer*, Esq. of Badgley, whose grand-son *John* devised the same to his nephew *Rowland Okeover*, whose son *Rowland Farmer Okeover* now enjoys it ‡.

January 31, 1565, 7 Elizabeth, Robert Green sells to Robert Broughton all the tythes within the manor of Oldbury, with the

* Dugdale, ex autog. pen. J. Roper arm.

† The duke sold the same to Robert Green, by deed dated xxvi February, anno regni Reg' Henrici Octavi Angl' Fr' et Hib' Reg' Fidei Defens' et Eccles' Angl' et Hib' Suprem' Capit' xxiii. to be held of the king in capite by the twentieth part of a knight's fee, and the annual rent of thirteen shillings and eight pence.

The arms of Polesworth abbey were Az. a fess cotized between six crosses crosslets Or. See plate IV.

‡ The arms of Okeover, Ermine on a chief Gules three bezants. Burton, Leicestershire, p. 275.

oblations

oblations and obventions which he as lord of Oldbury had received, and which he had purchased of Margaret Booth, May 24, 1549, 4 Edward VI.

January 1, 1575, 17 Elizabeth, Robert Broughton releases to Robert Holt the tythes of hay, corn, &c. of Oldbury. From him they came to Thomas Perkins, John Swift, Bartholomew Laxton, and Nicholas Rolf; and thence 7 James I. 1609 to Richard Whitehall.

Qu. To whom did Robert Broughton demise or sell the Easter book or offerings?

To the lofty situation of Oldbury, these lines of Leland, from his "*Genethliacon Edwardi Principis*," are applicable:

"Unde licet velut e specula quoscunque jacentes

"Circum monticulos, vallesque videre feraces."

The ramparts of the Fort at Oldbury are about twenty feet broad at the bottom, and about six feet high. See plate V. here annexed.

The South East side has been built upon, so that the length that way cannot be determined. According to Sir William Dugdale, it contained about seven acres.

HARTSHILL.

The Fort at Oldbury



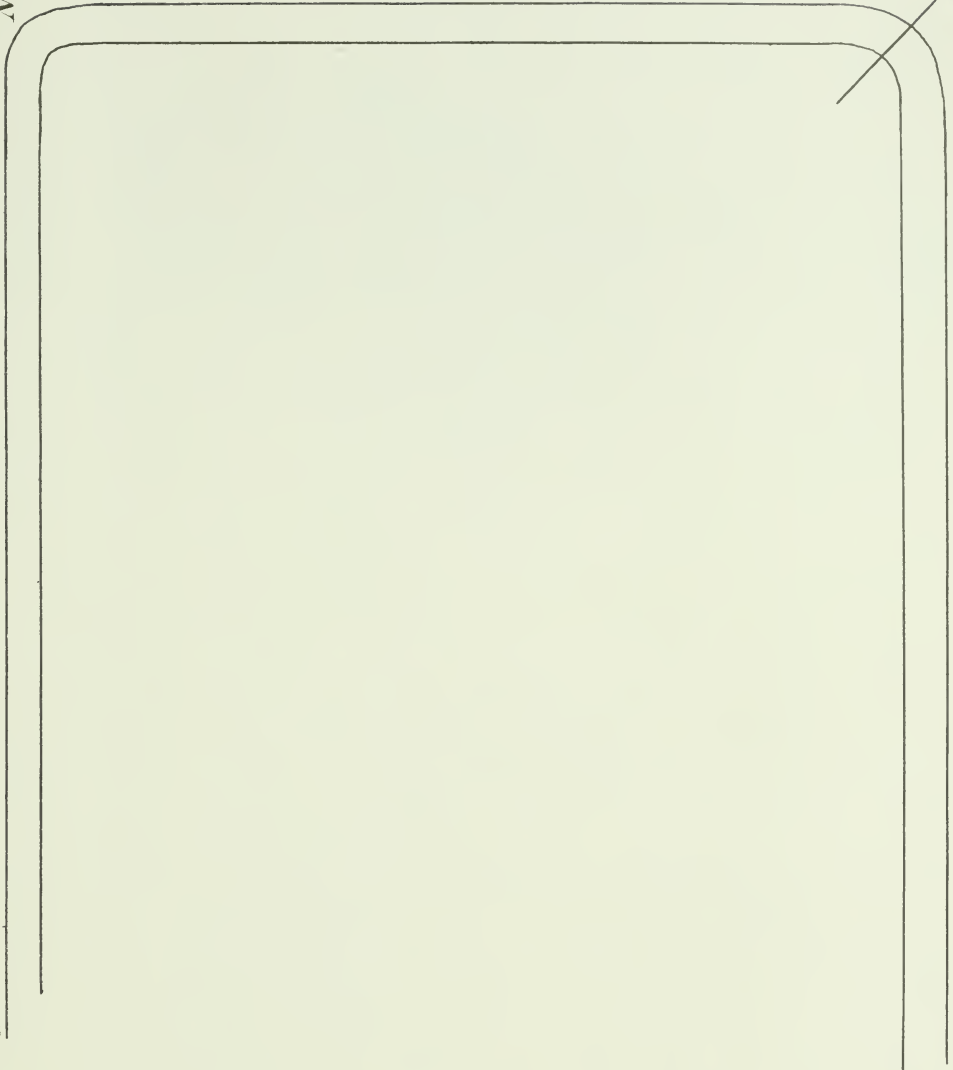
E

460 Feet

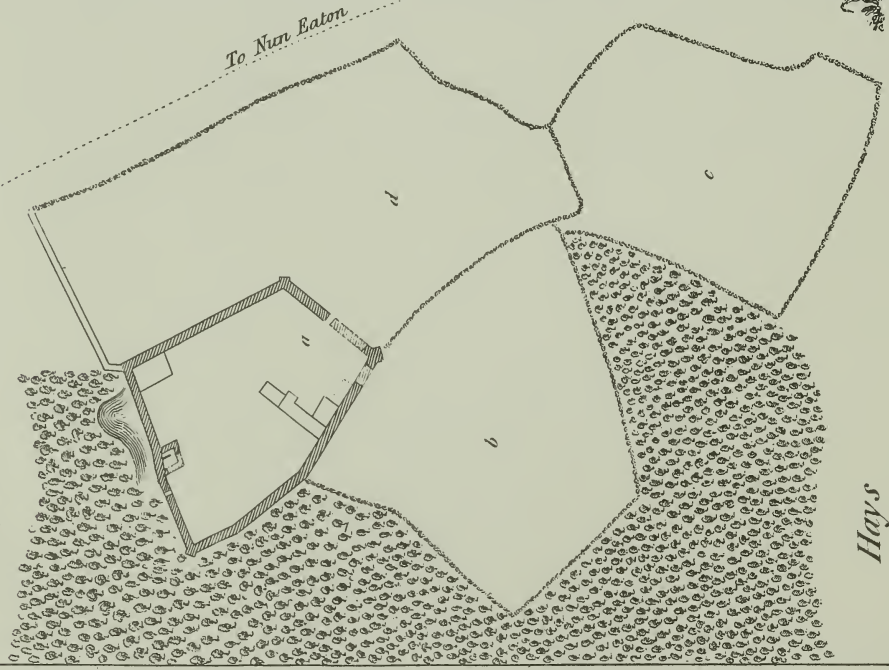
W

600 Feet

S

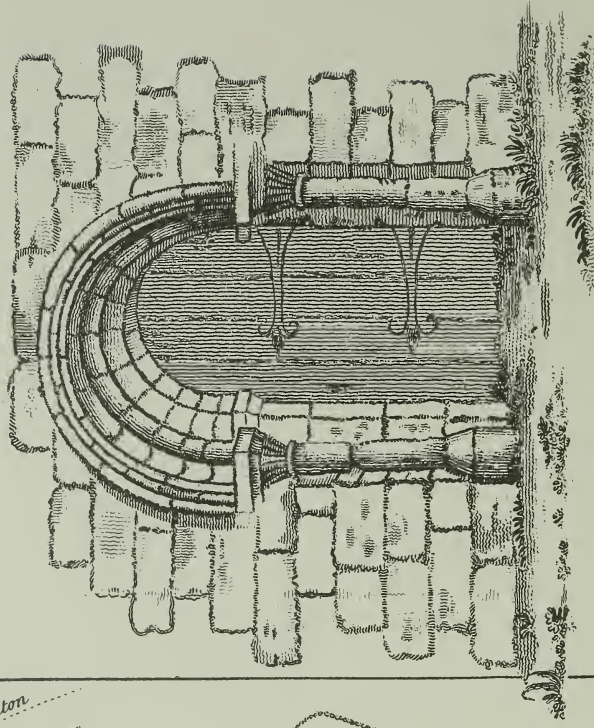


Part of the



The Ground Plan of
HARTSHILL CASTLE &c.

- a. Castle Yard..... a 1 p
1 0 12
b. New Close..... 2 1 31
c. Black Close..... 1 3 26
d. Hollow and Little Park 3 1 9.



Saxon doorway of
AN SLEY CHURCH.

H A R T S H I L L.

HARTSHILL, the third village in the parish, the *Campus Martius* of the Romans, and by them included in the general name of *Mandueffedum*, was first settled and inhabited by the Saxons, who called it *Ardenhill*. By the Conqueror it was let to farm with Ansley to Nicholas, a man of note in those days, at 100 shillings, as in Domesday, where it is called *Ardresbill*, and with Ansley contained two hides and several caracutes. There were thirteen villans with five caracutes more, also six acres of meadow; all which had been valued at four pounds, but now at 100 shillings. Not long after this census was finished, the Conqueror gave this lordship with the rest of the parish, and the adjoining one of Ansley, to *Hugh Lupus* earl of Chester, whose nephew and heir *Ranulph de Meschines* gave Hartshill and Anseley to his kinsman *Hugh*. By him and his descendants it was called *Aldredusbull* *, *Hardresbull*, *Harderbull*, *Hardeßbull*, *Harteshull*, and in later days *Hareßbull* and *Hartshill*.

The village (see plate VI.) is built on the North end of the hilly plain, forming a rustic square, near the centre of which stands an old building (now a cottage) called the chapel, which name I find it bore in the reign of James I. †; but when it was used for any religious purpose does not appear. On the West side of the vil-

* Also *Hardredusbull*, *Harteshull*, and *Hardriceshull*.

† In 1608, in Cook's deed of sale it is termed a cottage, called the chapel. May 6, 1621, Jane Wright, widow of Christopher Wright, of Happesford, and daughter of Francis Purefoy of Caldecot, leases to Ralph Parker for eight years, the house called the chapel standing in the middle of the village.

lage is a large wood stretching up near the camp at Oldbury, the remains of the woods of the Arden, in antient days called from its possessors *Sylva Hugonis*, and *Sylva Willielmi*, and now *The Hays*, in the side of which, adjoining the castle, is a large tumulus coeval with that in which the stone axe was found, but it has not been opened. From the village the grounds fall gently to the river Ankor, which runs pleasantly through this manor, directing its course from South East to North West.

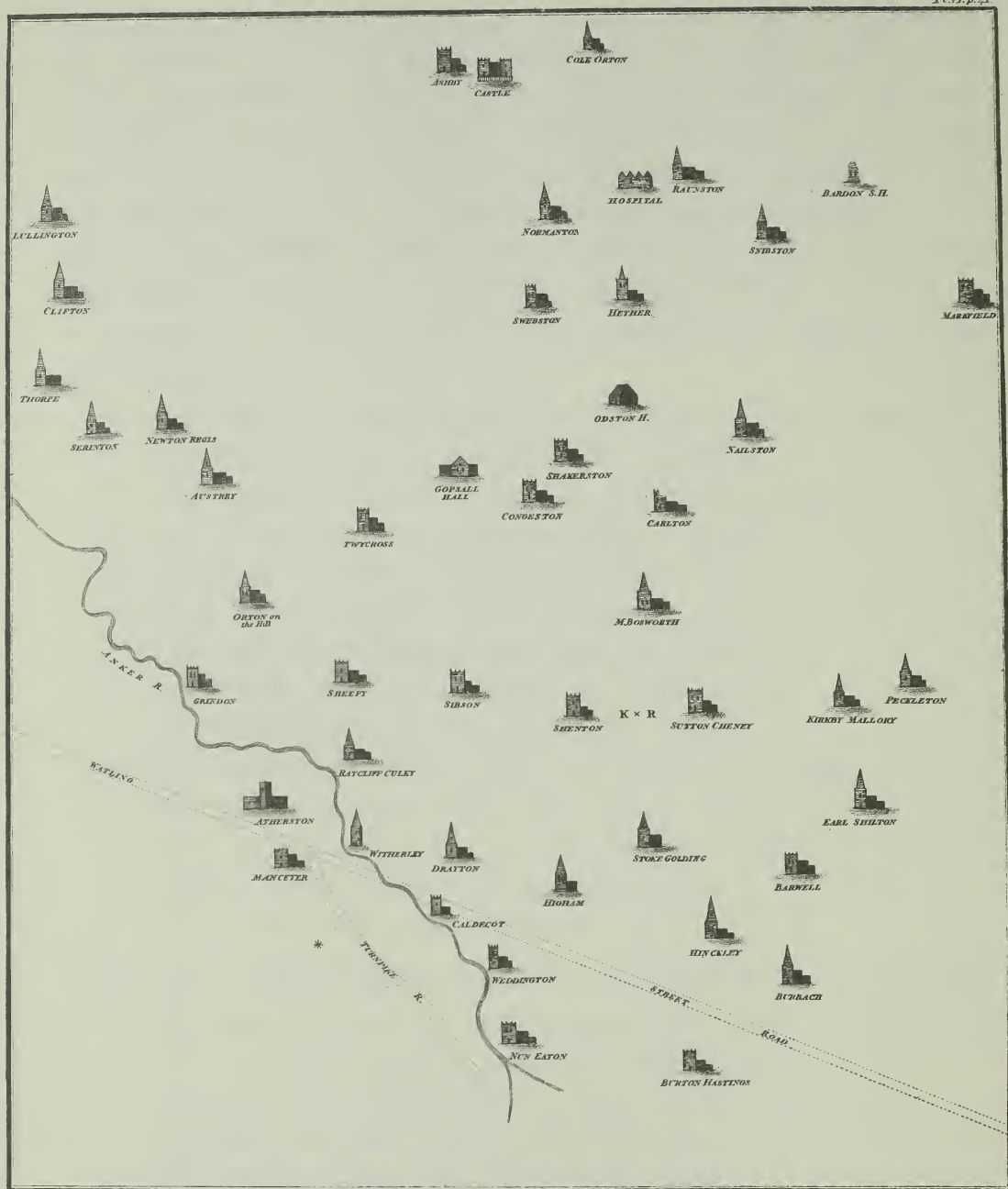
Drayton, in complaisance to the place of his nativity, with poetic exaggeration sings,

- “ Our floods, queen Thames for ships and swans renown’d,
- “ And stately Severn for her shores is praised,
- “ The christal Trent for fords and fish renown’d,
- “ And Avon’s fame to Albion’s cliffs is raised,
- “ Caerlegion Chester vaunts her holy Dee,
- “ York many wonders of her Ouze can tell,
- “ The Peak her Dove, whose banks so fertile be,
- “ And Kent will say her Medway doth excell,
- “ Cotswold commends her Isis to the Tame,
- “ Our Northern borders boast of Tweed’s fair flood,
- “ Our Western parts extoll their Willy’s fame,
- “ And the old Lea brags of the Danish blood.
- “ Arden’s sweet Ankor, let thy glory be,
- “ That fair idea onely lives by thee.”

And again, addressing his mistress Ann Goodyer of Coventry,

- “ Say thus, fair brook, when thou shalt see thy queen,
- “ Lo here thy shepherd spent his wandering years,
- “ And in these shades, dear nymph, he oft had been,
- “ And here to thee he sacrific’d his tears,
- “ Fair Arden, thou my Tempe art alone,
- “ And thou, sweet Ankor, art my Helicon.”

On



This View taken from B. Burtlett's Summer House at Harzhill by Rich. Adkins & Corrected from Prior's Map.

On the further or North-east side of the river the grounds gently rise again, until the bounds are determined by the Watling Street. The hilly part or plain is one large and very deep rock, breaking when dug up into small and very irregular pieces, more fit for the repair of the highways than buildings, very great quantities having been carried away for some years past for that purpose. The interstices of this stone are in many places filled with a reddish fluid, of the ferrugineous kind; and though this rock in several places appears on the surface, yet the ground is very fruitful, gratefully repaying the industrious cultivator for his compost and labour. From this hilly plain is seen a most beautiful and fruitful landscape, interspersed with a very great number of churches, more than forty of which may be seen with the unarm'd eye*. Hence also you see the ruins of Ashby house, and a little nearer the Red Mere, or Plain, which gave the crown to Henry the Seventh, now a well-cultivated spot; and a little to the South East, on the boundaries of the village, Nun Eaton, with the neglected ruins of its once famous monastery, several more churches, and the lofty spires of Coventry,

“ Hinc auræ dulces, hinc suavis spiritus agri.”

Hugh, to whom Ranulph de Meschines had given this manor with that of Ansley about 1125, assuming the name of *de Hardresbull*, built himself a fair manor-house, situate at the utmost point of a ridge that stretched itself betwixt two narrow vallies, commanding a fine view of Atherstone. This house he surrounded with a strong and lofty wall, with loop-holes, as represented in plate XVI. fig. 4. cut in large squared stones, and at each angle buttresses of the same: the other parts of the wall are of the rough stone of the place. This wall, excepting in its height, is tolerably entire, save the gate which is pulled down, and a large breach left in its room. From a very small remain it

* See Plate *VI.

appears to have had an octangular tower on each side of the gateway. On the North is the chapel, which, standing due East and West, breaks the line of the wall which forms the North side of this building; round the bottom is a thick double torus of squared stone, the Eastern and other windows with a buttress and corners of the same. The Eastern half of this chapel is entire, but converted into a stable; the mansion-house entirely gone; so that with the poet we may truly say,

“ of other times, the feat

“ Of heroes now resign'd to fate,
 “ Where often mirth relax'd the soul,
 “ And midnight crown'd the rosy bowl,
 “ Where sprightly music swell'd the sound,
 “ While bloomy beauty tript around,
 “ They're vanish'd as they ne'er had been,
 “ No lyre is heard, no maid is seen,
 “ No more the tuneful lyrist warms;
 “ Death long since rifled Beauty's charms.”

Hugh also imparked a tract of ground adjoining to Caldecot on the South East, and bounded by the river on the North East, a part of which yet retains the name.

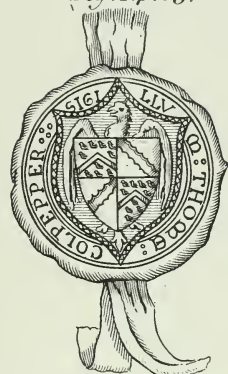
He was succeeded by his son,

*Robert**, who married the daughter of William de Seleby of the county of Lincoln; and about the year 1150, 15 Stephen, increased his estate by the bounty of Ranulph de Gernonis †, the son and heir of his father's benefactor. Ranulph, having lately joined Stephen, obtained from him a grant of the estate of Roger de Builly, a friend of the empress Maud's, lying in the county

* In Robert's time an agreement was made betwixt Ranulph de Gernonis and Robert Bossu earl of Leicester, that no castle should be built betwixt Hinckley and Coventry, or Hinckley and Herdreshull, by either of them; or that, if any other person should erect such, they should mutually assist each other in demolishing the same. See this agreement at large in the Leicestershire Collections, p. 1384.

† See the seal of this earl in Plate *XI. p. 80.

Fig. 2. p. 65.



Penes I. Ludford Arm. I. H. 4.

Fig. 3. p. 65.

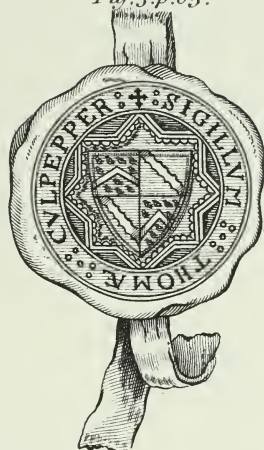
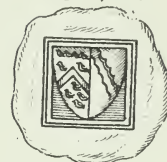


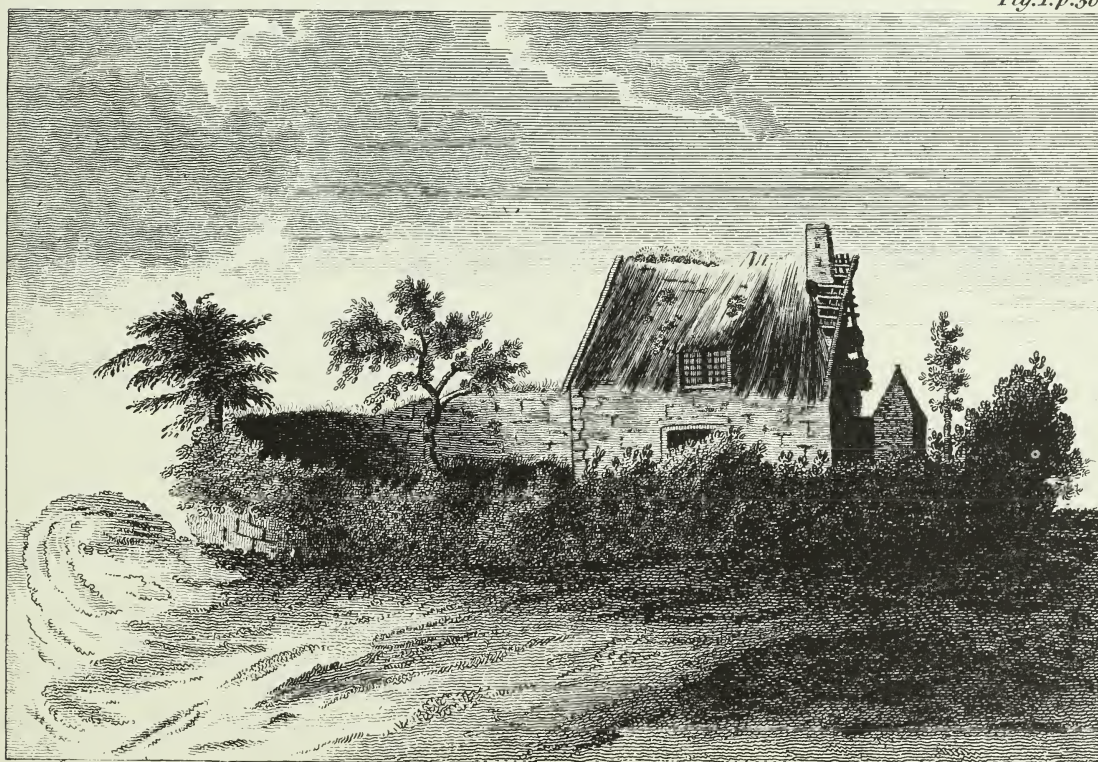
Fig. 4. p. 65.



Penes I. Ludford Arm. 20. H. 7

Tho:^s Culpepper Dñs de Hardredishill
Will^o Butler de Swidele &c. Conc: terr
in Astley, I. Hen. VI. (Ex. Aspilogiâ Ioh: Car:
Brooke, de Coll. Armor:)

Fig. 1. p. 50.



J. Atkins del. 1783.

F. Cary sculp.

A Cottage on Hartshill Green called the Chapel.

Pedigree of HARDREDESHULL.

(Taken from DUGDALE'S WARWICKSHIRE, p. 1080, 2d Edition.)

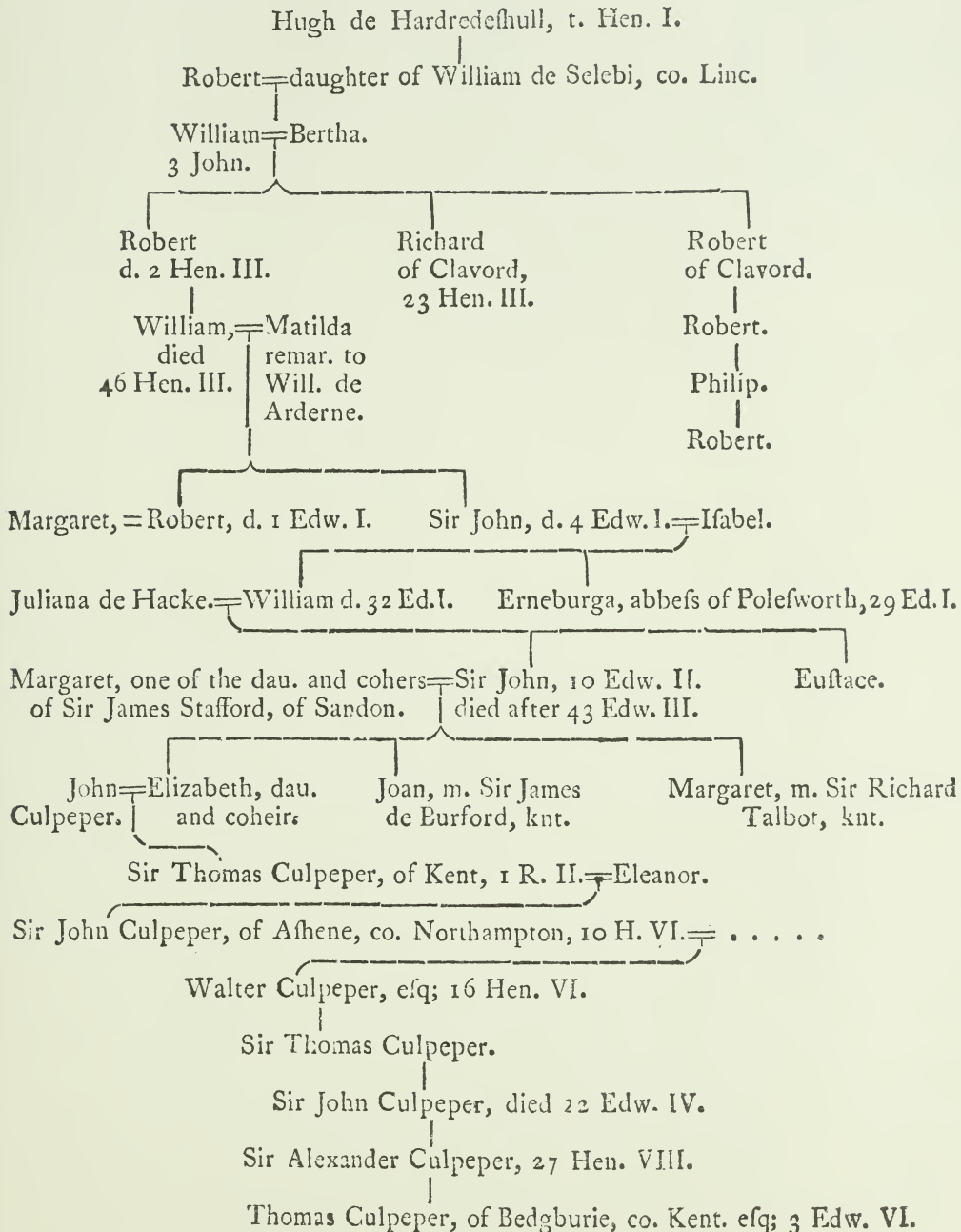


Fig. 1. p. 51.



Fig. 2. p. 54.

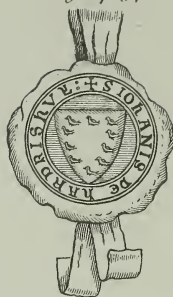


Fig. 3. p. 55

Pl. VIII. p. 51.



Fig. 4. p. 55.



Fig. 5. p. 59.

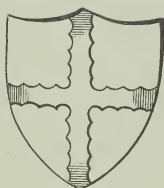
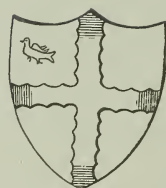
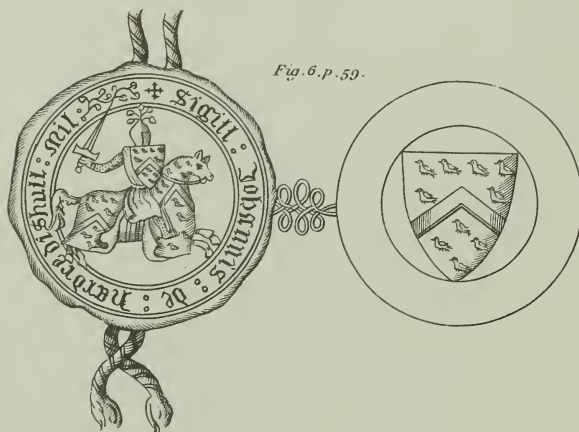


Fig. 6. p. 59.



of Nottingham, out of which he gave Clavord to Robert; which said manor, a few years after, 2 Henry II. 1156, was accounted for at cxii s. by Ranulph Fitz Ingelram, sheriff of Nottingham. He was succeeded by his son,

William * de Hardreshull, who in 1 John 1199 fined for Clavord cxii s. In the next year, 2 John, Thomas de Seleby, his mother's brother, being dead, and his only daughter Grace married to Adam de Nevill, William procured at the expence of D marks, an inquisition by jury for the future settlement of that estate, in case Grace de Nevill should die without leaving any issue.

H. Rot. 2. Item Lincolscira.

“ Willielmus de Aldredeshull debet D marcas, si recognitio
 “ non recognoverit, quod Gratia uxor Adæ de Nevill non fuit
 “ filia Thomæ Selebei, et si sic terram habere poterit quem clamat
 “ versus eos; si vero recognitio non recognoverit, sed quod
 “ terra Adæ et uxori remaneat, tunc dabit Ada predictas D
 “ marcas.”

In 3 John he served the office of sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester for the great William de Cantilupe of Aston Cantilupe; and in the same year he levied a fine of one virgate and a half of land in Anseley, between William de Hardehull † and William Stokes ten. jus Willielmi de Hardehull. In 6 John 1205, John Jefferay Savage of Bagington in

* This William, during the life-time of his father, was a subscribing witness to a charter of Ranulf de Gernonis, done at Nottingham, confirming his nephew Bacoun's foundation charter of the abbey of Roucelter in Staffordshire. Monast. II. p. 268.

† There are amongst the charters of the Hadrishulls at Ansley two charters, being grants of lands in Ansley from this person. Both have affixed to them a seal bearing the same impression, a knight in mail on horseback with his sword drawn in his right hand and a falcon in his left. The grants are neither of them dated, but I think it is very discoverable which is the elder one of them in the hand writing of the times of Henry II. the other of John. See Appendix N° IV; and plate VIII. fig. 1.

this county having become surety with William to some Jews of Northampton, and he neglecting to pay the same, Jefferay was distrained upon; he complained of this to the king, and accompanying his petition with a present of x marks, obtained an order for repayment. In this year Grace de Nevill, being a widow, married Bernard de Lisle, a baron of great note in those days. 8 John, he gave the church of Ansley to the nuns of Polefworth *. Soon after this he died, leaving two sons Robert and Richard. The eldest *Robert* succeeded to the estates of Hartshill and Anesley; and 2 Henry III. 1218, he was one of the sureties in behalf of Robert Marmion, for the safe custody of the castle of Tamworth for the king's use †; and in the fifth and sixth of the same reign, he was one of the justices of assize for this county ‡. In the same year he fined for lands in Clavord, which concerned him as his inheritance. His younger brother had the estate at Clavord, of whom and his posterity I shall speak hereafter.

Robert died 7 Henry III. 1223, leaving issue *William* de Hardreshull or Hardredeshull, who 9 Henry III. 1225, gave 20 marks for his relief ||, and 447 l. 7 s. 5 d. being a debt due to some Jews §. In the same and following ** year he was in a commission for levying a fifteenth in this county and Leicestershire ††, and for taking assizes of novel disseisin in this shire ‡‡. 17 Henry III. died Ranulph de Blundevill, the last earl of Chester. The fee |||| which the Hardrefulls possessed here, became the property of

* Pat. 21 Ric. II. p. 3. m. 22. per inspex.

† Ex autog. penes Fr. Netherfole.

‡ Rot. 5 Hen. III. in dorf. Rot. Fin. 6 Hen. III. m. 7.

|| Rot. Pat. 9 Hen. III.

§ Ibid.

** Claus. 10 Hen. III. in dorf.

†† Ibid. in dorf.

‡‡ Pat. 10 Hen. III. in dorf.

|||| One knight's fee.

Hugh the second son, and by the death of his elder brother heir to Mabil his second daughter, married to William Albini son of the earl of Arundel: and in the next year died also Bernard de Lisle. 23 Henry III. Bertha the widow of his uncle Richard dying, he gave ten marks for the custody of the said Richard's lands, until his son should come of age *. He paid also for the said lands a mew'd sparrow-hawk. 43 Henry III. 1259, died Grace de Lisle, having survived her last husband twenty-five years, and William did homage for all those lands she possessed in Saleby, Cuckwold, and Kelese, which were of her inheritance in the county of Lincoln †. By the inquisition taken in 28 Henry III. she had a large property. See Appendix, N° V.

William died 46 Henry III. 1264 ‡, leaving by his wife Matilda, afterwards married to William de Ardern, two sons, who afterwards by turns enjoyed the estate. About this time he had granted certain lands in Anesley to William de Bret, who built himself a mansion-house, which afterwards obtained the name of Bret's hall, as the land that of a manor. A succeeding *William* obtained 34 Edward III. the bishop's licence to have divine service celebrated in his private oratory for the space of two years.

Robert de Hardreshull the elder son gave LX s. to the king as a relief for those lands his father died possessed of, which were held of the king in capite ||; and doing his homage had livery of them §. Joining the earl of Leicester and the confederate barons, he was August 14, 49 Henry III. 1265, slain at the battle of Evesham, and his lands seized, and this manor of Hardreshull by name given to *Warrin de Bassingburn* of Weedon, lord of the

* Rot. Pat. 27 Hen. III.

† Rot. Fin. 43 Hen. III. m. 9.

‡ Rot. Pat. 46 Hen. III.

|| Ibid.

§ Rot. Fin. 46 Hen. III. m. 124

castle of Benefield in the county of Northampton *, at that time in great favour with the king; yet to Margaret his widow were allowed certain lands lying in Kelesy, Poulton-heath, and Paxton, for the maintenance of herself and children; how many she had does not appear †. The *Dictum de Kenelworth* of 51 Henry III. 1266 excepting this manor from forfeiture, it came to his brother,

John de Hardreshull, or Harderhull, miles ‡. He soon after exchanged some of his lands in Ansley and Hartshill for some of those which lay in Kelesie, that had been granted to his sister Margaret. In this deed of exchange he styles himself “Johannes, filius et heres domini Willielmi,” and uses for arms on the seal of this instrument, Argent a border of ten martlets Gules ||, which arms he afterwards exchanged for Argent a chevron Sable betwixt ten martlets Gules. He died 4 Edward I. 1276 §, leaving issue by his wife Isabella a son,

William de Hardreshull, Harderdes hull, Harde shull, or Harteshull, then five years old, and a daughter Erneburga, created abbess of Poleworth May 24, 1293, 21 Edward I. William being of age 20 Edward I. doing his homage, had livery of his father's lands in Warwickshire, Leicestershire, and Lincolnshire **, and in the next year obtained a charter of free warren for them ††. Soon after this he married Juliana daugh-

* Cart. 49 Hen. III. m. 3.

† Pat. 50 Hen. III. m. 29.

Placit. jur. et assise 56 Hen. III. Rot. 6. in Baga de Quo warrant. War. Assis.

“ Si Margareta que fuit uxor Roberti de Hardreshull disseis. Roberti de Guilly communis pasturæ in Annelsley pro libero tenemento in Mancetre.”

‡ Ex autog. penes W. Burton.

|| Ex autog. penes G. Ludford, gen. See Appendix N° VI; and plate VIII. fig. 2.

§ Efc. 4 Edw. I. m. 25.

** Claus. 20 Edw. I. m. 12.

†† Rot. Cart. 24 Edw. I. 12. 19. “ Hardreshull pro libera warennâ ibidem et in Saieby, Cukewald, et Kelesey, et Pulteney concessa Willielmo de Hardreshull et heredibus.”

ter of Eustachius de Haech, and levied a fine of his manors of Saleby and Kelavy, William and his wife Juliana plaintiffs, and Eustachius de Haech defendant. Not long after he granted to Henry Ynge for thirty shillings, and a reserved rent of twelve pence per annum, three acres of land in the woody waste in Hardredishull, subject to the following exception: that if any coal should be found in this ground, that the grantor or his heirs should get them, allowing an equivalent in other lands in the said manor:

“ Si ita contingat quod carbo maris super terram dicti
 “ Henrici inveniant, quod ego Willielmus vel heredes nostri
 “ fodere faciamus dictum carbonem ad voluntatem nostram,
 “ et dicto Henrico et heredibus et assignatis suis bonam et
 “ plenam restitutionem alibi in manerio de Hardredishull fa-
 “ ciamus *.”

This deed is sealed with a lion rampant, circumscribed *S. Will'i de Hardredeshull* †. 29 Edward I. 1301, he had summons amongst divers other eminent persons to attend the king at Berwick upon Tweed, on the feast day of St. John the Baptist's nativity, to march with him into Scotland ‡. He then used for arms, Or a cross engrailed Gules, in the first quarter a martlet vert ||. In the old roll of the knights serving in the reign of Edward I. William de Hardreshull is entered amongst the knights of Leicestershire, perhaps as lord of Poultney in that county. He died 32 Edward I. 1304 §, leaving issue two sons, *John* who

* He also granted to Robert Ynge for thirty shillings, and a reserved rent of nine pence per annum, two acres and one rood of land in Birchley within his manor of Ansley, subject to the same restrictive clause about coals. This deed we find was cancelled in 36 Henry VI. as hereafter will be related.

† See plate VIII. fig. 3.

‡ Claus. 29 Edw. I. in dorf. m. 13.

|| See plate VIII. fig. 4. These arms were remaining in the bellfry window at Bechampton co. Bucks in 1631. Br. Willis.

§ Esc. 32 Edw. I. m. 50.

succeeded

succeeded at Hartshill, and *Eustace* who married Amice daughter and heir of Robert Marmion, by Isabella the daughter of Giles Fitz Ralphe of Whittacre, but died without issue, and his wife Juliana afterwards married John Hansard, whose wife she was at the death of her father Eustace baron of Haech *.

John de Hardreshull, ten years old at his father's death, married before he was of age Margaret, the daughter of Sir James Stafford, of Sandon, in the county of Stafford (by Margaret daughter of Edmund baron Stafford), at that time the widow of Thomas Erdeswick. This marriage was granted to Nicholas Malemeyns of the parish of Phikele in Kent, a servant of the king's †. 6 Edward II. 1313, being of age, he did homage and had livery of his lands ‡, and the next year attended the king in that unfortunate expedition into Scotland, where at the battle of Bannockburn near Sterling, he was taken prisoner ||. 10 Edward he had some contest with the nuns of Polesworth, about an hereditary right which he claimed of presenting two nuns to that house, but afterwards gave it up §. 15 Edward II. being then a knight, he was joined in commission with Nicholas de Grey, in the government of the castles of Melburn and Dunington in the counties of Derby and Leicester **, and in the next year was appointed one of the commissioners for arraying men in this county for the Scottish expedition ††. 17 Edward II. he was sent into Gascony on the king's service ‡‡, and in the twentieth of the

* Inquisitio 32 Edw. I. Willielmus de Harteshull tenuit manerium de Cokewode, com. Lincoln. Hardreshull, com. Warr.

† Pat. 32 Edw. I. m. 26.

‡ Claus. 6 Edw. II. m. 20.

|| Claus. 8 Edw. II. in dorf. m. 24.

§ Ex autog. penes F. Netherfole.

** Rot. Fin. 15 Edw. II. m. 13.

†† Claus. 16 Edw. II. in dorf. m. 12.

‡‡ Pat. 17 Edw. II. p. 2. m. 8.

same reign was appointed governor of the castle of St. Briaval, and warden of the forest of Dean in the county of Gloucester *. In this year, September 3, he levied a fine of his manor of Hardreshull, which he sold to Philip de Hardreshull of Clavord for one hundred pounds †, but soon after repurchased it: for 1 Edward III. 1306, he obtained licence from Roger Northburgh ‡, bishop of this diocese, for a priest to celebrate divine service within his manor-house in Hardreshull. 3 Edward III. he was appointed a commissioner for the conservation of the peace in this county ||. 14 Edward III. he levied a fine of the manor of Ashene, now Ashton §, in the county of Northampton, which he had lately purchased of Philip de Hardreshull **. 16 Edward III. he was summoned to a parliament to meet at Westminster, March 15 ††. 20 Edward III. on collecting the aid for making the king's son a knight, he accounted for the fourth part of a knight's fee at Ashene, as held of William Mauduit ‡‡.

* Rot. Fin. 20 Edw. II. m. 3.

† Fin. lev. 3 Sept. Mich. 20 Edw. III.

‡ Reg. Northburgh, fol. 5, 6.

|| Pat. 3 Edw. III. p. 1. in dorf. m. 16.

§ Ashene, formerly Esse, Effene, and in Domesday Afce, at which time it was part of the possessions of Winemar, and in the hands of his under tenants. Dodin held one hide and four parts of one virgate; the arable land was three carucates, in demesne one carucate, and one servant, five villans, and five cottagers, who had two carucates; there were five acres of meadow with a wood six furlongs in length and four in breadth. Dodin had only a tenth in his possession.

** In the reign of Henry III. Philip Lovel conveyed this manor to Robert de Lou or Wolf, his son John and his wife Emma, with remainder to Agnes sister of Philip. 1 Edward II. Philip levied a fine, and 9 Edward II. was certified lord of this manor. On his decease without issue Margaret his widow remained in possession, and 3 Edward III. Robert son of John releases it to Philip de Hardreshull, which bargain was confirmed by John de Paveley, son and heir of Agnes de Lou, on whom the reversion was settled. Bridges, Northamptonshire, I. 283, and records there cited.

†† Intituled, "De magno consilio tenendo apud Westmonast." Claus. 15 Edw. III. part 2. m. 38. in dorso. See Appendix, N° VII.

N. B. This great council or parliament did not meet.

‡‡ Comput. Walt. Parles in Scacc.

22 Edward III. we find him a subscribing witness to a charter of John fil's Adee de Welle, by the style of "Johannes de Hardreshull dominus de Salebie." 23 Edward III. the manor of Ashene, containing a church and chapel, which was a third part of the rectory of Rode in that neighbourhood, and belonging to the manor, entitled the owners to every third presentation to the said rectory; the other two turns belonged to the abbot and convent of the monastery of St. James near Northampton; and this year producing a vacancy, Sir John presented thereto John de Calkwell, pbr. 16 cal. Aug. 1349 *.

In Hillary term 34 Edward III. he levied a fine and settled Hardreshull and Onfle (Anesley) on himself, Margaret his wife, and their issue†. 39 Edward III. being about seventy-two years of age, and his wife Margaret being dead, he resettled Hardreshull, Anesley, and Monewood, on trustees. The time of his death is uncertain. He was buried in his own church at Ashene ‡, where under one of the two arches which separate the body of the church from the North aisle, near the pulpit, yet remains his tomb of freestone, on which lies his cumbent figure in marble, armed, two angels support his head resting on a cushion, and a lion lays at his feet: round the verge is the following inscription:

**Gons' Johan de Harteshull gist ycy.
Dieu de sa alme eit mercy. Amen §.**

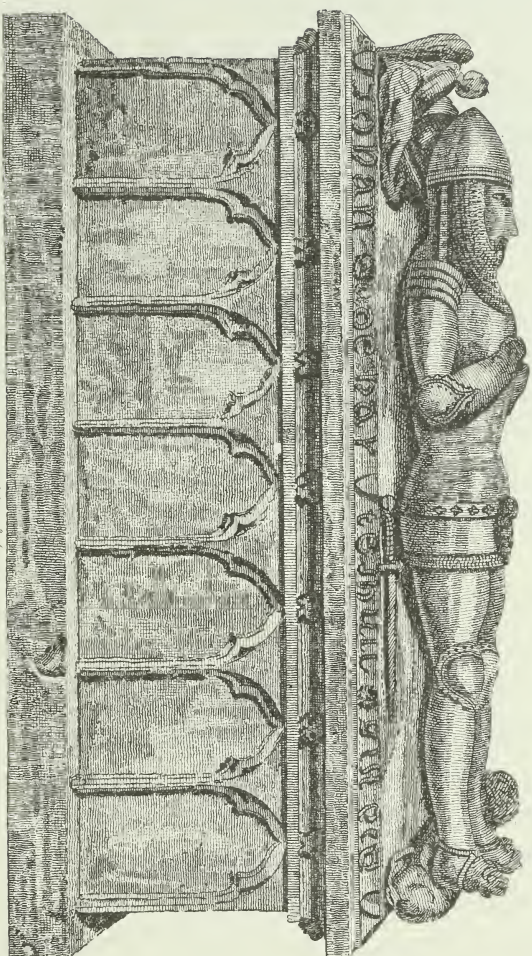
He bore his grand-father's arms, Argent a chevron Sable between ten martlets Gules, as by two different seals yet remaining does appear

* Reg. J. Gynwell epi Lincoln. Bridges, I. 321.

† Fin. de div. com. 15 Hil. 30 Edw. III.

‡ This church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of a body and chancel leaded, a North isle tyled and a South porch leaded, with a low embattled West tower in which were four bells, one of them now (1782) broken and taken down. It is a rectory in the deanry of Preston, value 10 l. per ann.

§ Bridges, ib. 284. See plate IX.



*Monument of John de Hardeschull
in the Church of Ashene or Aston, Northamptonshire*

Plate VIII. fig. 5. affixed to a deed conveying lands in Annefley, a small oval, the shield furmounted with an ornamented helmet, circumscribed, "Sigil. Johan. de Hardreshul," the instrument dated 13 Edward II.

Fig. 6. affixed to a deed conveying lands in Annesley, the seal larger, Sir John on horseback with his shield of arms, and his horse caparisoned with the same. 'S. Joans de Hardredithull,' dated 24 Edward III. *. He here styles himself 'Dominus de Hardreshul et Ansleley.'

Fig. 7. A third also much larger from a drawing in the Herald's college, "Sigil. Johannis de Hardredithull." This is countersealed with a shield of arms, but no inscription.

He left three daughters, *Elizabeth* married to John Colepeper, to whom on partition of the estate, Hartshill, Ansley, and Ashene descended. *Joan* married to Sir James Burford, and *Margaret* to Sir John † Talbot.

The death of Sir John Hardreshull without issue male having put a period to that name at Hartshill, I must return to the first *William* of that family, the grand-son of Hugh the founder, who, as is before related, having two sons, gave Clavord to *Richard* the younger. He married Bertha, by whom he had a son *Robert*, whom he left very young. Robert having attained the age of twenty-one, settled at Clavord, and the next year recognized the claim of Nicholas de Hecham dean of Lincoln to three fourths of the church of Clavord, though it was not until 9 Edward I. 1281, that the dean had full possession. To this Robert succeeded his son *Robert* de Hardreshull, of whom in the Nomina Villar. 9 Edward II. 1316, we find this entry: "Clavord and Wyfeton answered for a whole vill; Thomas de Latymar and Robert de Hardeeshull are the lords;" and in the

* Penes Johannes Ludford arm. de Ansley.

† Or as Dugdale Sir *Richard*.

same record that Alexander Norreys, lord of Greenlege or little Greenley, held a messuage and thirty acres of land in Clavord of Robert de Hardeshull, by the service of twenty-four shillings per annum. His son *Philip* succeeded to this estate, and 13 Edward II. 1320, was witness to a grant of Sir John de Hardreshull of Hartshill. 20 Edward II. 1326, he purchased the manor of Hartshill of Sir John, but resold it him the same year. 3 Edward III. 1329, he was a subscribing witness to a grant of Robert Fitz Nigel, giving the church of Beckhampton to the prior of St. Mary's, Luffield *.

Robert his son succeeded. 11 Richard II. 1388, it is said the jury found it not to the king's loss, if he (Robert) granted licence to Nicholas Daubenny parson of Clavord, to found a chantry in the said church †, the lands to be held of Robert de Herdhill of the said place, by the service of eleven shillings per annum, and two appearances at the king's turn of Berselaid, which Robert held over of the heirs of John de Hardeshill, by the service of a fore hawk and they of the king in capite.

On Sir John de Hardreshull 16 Henry VI. Walter Culpeper, lord of the manors of Hartshill, Ansley, and Monewood, entailed them in default of heirs of his own. This John, it is supposed, died without issue, as the name occurs no more.

John de Colepeper of Bayhall in the parish of Pepenbury or Pembury in Kent, the husband of Elizabeth the eldest daughter, and one of the coheirs of Sir John de Hardreshull, and after his death in her right lord of Hardreshull, Anesley, and Monwode, Warwickshire, and of Ashene, Northamptonshire,

* 5 Edward III. 1331, he presented to his mediety of the church of Beckhampton called the lord's mediety William de Morton, clerk, who died 1349, 23 Edward III.

† The same to consist of one messuage and one hundred and twenty acres of land, with the appurtenances in Clavord.

Pedigree of COLEPEPER.

(Different from that already printed facing p. 50.)

Thomas. of Bayhall in Pepenbury, Kent, t. John.

Jeffery, t. Edward I.

Thomas, castellan of Leeds,
hanged 14 Edw. II. 1321.

Walter.

Thomas.

John, sherriff of Kent, = Elizabeth Hardreshill.
29. 40. 43 Edw. I.

Sir Thomas. = Eleanor Green,
of Exton.

1 Juliana = Sir John of Athene
Cromwell. 10 Hen. VI. Exton c. Rut.
2 Catherine
Bonington.

Walter = Agnes
d. 1460. Roper.

Catherine = Sir John,
Colepeper. d. 1482.

Constantia = Alexander
Chamberlaine. attainted 1 Ric. III. 1484,
sherriff of Kent 14, 20,
23 Hen. VII. 6 Hen. VIII.

Elizabeth Hart. = Thomas
of Bedgebury, Kent.

(Hafted, II. 355.)
Eleanor Green = Thomas.

Sir Thomas.

Walter.

Nicholas.
a daughter, mar.
Lewknor.

Eleanor, married Sir
Reginald Cobham,
of Sterborough.

was descended of an antient and honourable family in that county *, over the whole of which their demesnes spread, but more especially over the Western part of it †; Thomas de Colepeper being one of the “*recognitores magnæ assisæ*,” in the reign of king John. Jeffery Colepeper his grand-father served the office of sheriff for Kent in the reign of Edward I. His father Thomas Colepeper attaching himself to Bartholomew lord Badlesmere, a potent baron then in arms against Edward II. was by him appointed governor of Leeds castle, in which he placed his lady and their children, where as a faithful servant Thomas refused admittance to queen Isabel, then on a progress into that county, concluding no doubt, that if she once got entrance she would not easily be persuaded to go out again. This refusal was so much resented by Isabel, that she immediately prevailed upon the king to march some forces thither, with whom he quickly took the castle, after which he sent the lady and children of lord Badlesmere to London, and Thomas Colepeper the governor, to Winchelsea, where in 1321, 14 Edward II. he was hanged.

An anonymous writer quoted by Leland, Collect. v. I. p. 271, says that this visit to Leeds castle was a preconcerted scheme in order to distress lord Badlesmere. “*Interea rex volens vindicare de dicto Badlesmere, Isabellam reginam Angliæ ad castellum de Leeds misit, ut negatus sit reginæ introitus in castellum.*”

John served the office of sheriff for the county of Kent 39, 40, and 43 Edward III. soon after which he died. He is reported to be the builder of the church of Pepenbury, there

* Drayton in his Barons’ Wars, recounting the names of several of the baronial chieftains, says,

“And Culpeper in silver arms ingrail’d

“Bare thereupon a bloody bend engrail’d.”

† Haisted, Kent, II. 356.

being

being on the stone work in the inside on the three buttresses on the South side of the chancel * three shields engraved, on the first a plain cross, on the second the arms of Hardreshull, and on the third those of Colepeper †. There is also on the ground a plain stone inscribed in old French with the name of Margaret Colpeper, his daughter so called from her grandmother.

Sir Thomas his son having married in his father's life time, in 41 Edward III. along with his wife Eleonora, daughter and one of the coheirs of Sir Nicholas Green of Exton co. Rutland, levied a fine of the manor of Athene, which he held in right of his mother Elizabeth de Hardreshull. In April 2, 1377, Richard II. he was appointed one of the "justiciarii ad pacem conservandam in laitis de Ailesford, Sutton et Leucade Tunbridge, co. Cant." (Pat. 1 Ric. II.) and in the same year he presented to the church of Rode, William Syward, pbr. ‡ In Hilary term the succeeding year he levied a fine betwixt Thomas Colepeper and Eleanor his wife, plaintiffs, and Thomas Att Read and John Ansell de Poynton, jun. deforcients, of the manors of Hardreshull and Anesley, who granted them to the said Thomas and Eleanor for ever. In 1392, October 14, he presented to the church of Rode, Walter Kempston, pbr. § About this time, having lost his wife Eleanor, 18 Richard II. 1395, he mar-

* Hasted, II. 360.

† On a window-frame of an ancient barn, on an outhouse, and on a chimney-piece at Preston hall in Aylesford, are three shields, the right and left Hardreshull quartering Colepeper, in the center Colepeper alone betwixt T. C. above a date 1102, this date Mr. Hasted says (II. 175, where it is exactly engraved) is by some thought to be spurious, as the arms of Hardreshull had no alliance with Colepeper before the reign of Edward III. Mr. Hasted supposes the date to apply to the time when the family first settled there, and not to the time when it was engraved, on which account also the arms must have been one of the Pepenbury family.

‡ Reg. Buckenham epi Lincoln.

§ Ibid.

ried

ried the daughter, and then, by the death of her only brother John, sole heir to her father, of John de Bedgbury and Joan his wife, of Bedgbury in the parish of Goudherst in Kent, which place he made his future habitation, and which his posterity enjoyed for many generations, some of their tombs remaining in Goudherst church. Having now two mansions in that county, the castellated manor-house at Hartshill was occupied by tenants, and hence we may date the decay thereof *: yet the great regard he had for his mother Elizabeth de Hardreshull and her progenitors, appears in that in all his seals † the arms of Hardreshull possess the first quarter, and this continued for several descents. In 1396 he served the office of sheriff for Kent; in December 24, 1399, he presented to the church at Ashene William Body ‡; and 4 Henry IV. 1403, he settled a long dispute with William Brinklow, then parson of Manceter, about the tythes of his wood in Hartshill called the Hays, formerly Sylva Hugonis, and paid for the same with all arrears then due ten pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence ||. 8 Henry V. he had a grant from Thomas Mayne of Cortenhale, and his wife Joan daughter of John Machon, and others of lands, &c. in Rode, Hertwell, and Ashen, which they held after the decease of Simon Machon chaplain of Rode §. He was succeeded in Hardreshull, Anesley, and Ashene, by his eldest son Sir *John Colepeper* of Ashene, so called by Sir William Dugdale, or of Exton co. Rutland as Mr. Wright. He was returned to parliament 9 Henry V. and 5 Henry VI. for the county of Rutland, and

* About this time Sir William Dugdale says, that Plumpton a member of Kingsbury was pulled down by Sir John Bracebridge, and that a Danish battle-axe usually styled the charter of Plumpton, was removed to the mansion-house in Hartshill, inhabited by William de Plumpton, and remained there a long time after.

† In plate VII. may be seen five seals of this family.

‡ Reg. Beaufort epi Lincoln.

|| See Appendix, N^o VIII.

§ See Appendix, N^o IX.

served

served the office of sheriff for the county of Northampton 10 Henry VI. 1432. He married Juliana daughter of Ralph Crumwel. Dying without issue male;

Walter Colepeper, his younger brother *, by the heiress of and owner of Bedgbury, succeeded to his estates of Hardreshull, Anfley, and Ashene; and in Mart. term 16 Henry VI. 1438, levied a fine betwixt John Brunspath and Juliana his wife †, plaintiffs, and Walter Colepeper, deforciant, of the manors of Hardreshull, Anfley, and Monwood, jus Julianæ; and the said John and Julian grant them to Walter Colepeper and his heirs, and for want of such heirs to Sir John Hardreshull of Clavord. 36 Henry VI. 1458, he cancelled the grant made by Sir William de Hardreshull to Robert Ynge of lands in Anfley, about 1299, by cutting of the seal, and making an indorsement on the back of the deed, which with an extract of the grant I have given in the Appendix N° X.

Walter died 1460, having married Agnes, daughter of Edmund Roper of St. Dunstan's in Canterbury, who was buried in the church of Goudhurst, and by whom he left a son,

Sir *John* Colepeper, who served the office of sheriff for Kent, 7 Edward IV. 1457. In the fifteenth of the same reign 1465, Bryan Talbot, who 11 Edward IV. 1461, had served the office of sheriff for Rutlandshire, in right of Catharine his wife, the daughter of Walter Colepeper by the heiress of Bedgbury, laid claim to the manor of Ashene, which Sir John disputed, but agreed to refer the case to Sir Thomas Billing, lord chief justice of the Common Pleas, and laid himself under the obligation of one thousand marks, to abide by his decision, which was in his

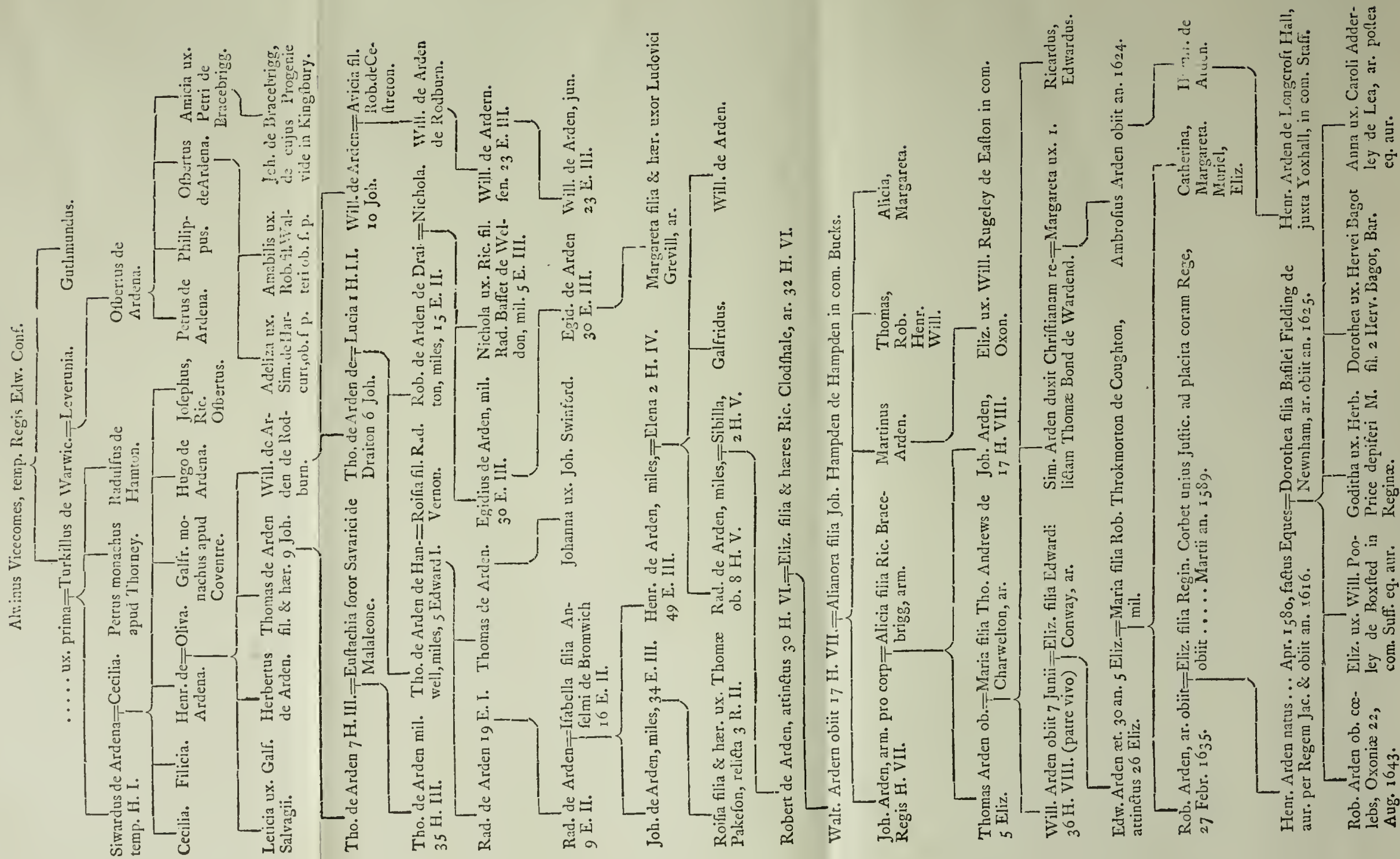
* Mr. Haisted, II. 355. makes Walter of Goudhurst *son* of Sir Thomas by Eleanor Green.

† Fin. de div. com. lev. 15 Martin. 16 Hen. VI.

Query, if the said Juliana was not the daughter of Sir William Colepeper, or rather the widow of his elder brother deceased?

favour.

Pedigree of ARDEN.



favour *. He died 22 Edward IV. 1482, as appears by the following inquisition :

“ 22 Edwarti Quarti.

“ Johannes Colepeper tenuit die quo obiit mannerium de
 “ Hardfull de Henrico domino de Grey, per quod servitium ig-
 “ noratur; et valet per ann. 10 l. et tenuit mannerium de Ansley
 “ et Monwode de Ricardo priore ecclesiæ cathedralis beatæ
 “ Mariæ de Coventry per redditus 5 s. per ann. pro omnibus
 “ servitiis, et valet per ann. 10 s.; et quod Alexander Colepeper
 “ armiger est filius et heres propinquior ejusdem Johannis, et
 “ ætatis 21.”

Alexander Colepeper, Esq. accordingly took the estate, but in the next year, 1 Richard III. 1484, was attainted; perhaps, says Sir William Dugdale, for his adherence to the duke of Buckingham; his estate taken from him, and the manor of Hardfull given to Sir *Charles Pilkinton*, knight of the body to the king †. But this attainder seems to have been taken off soon after the accession of Henry VII. for in his third year, Alexander presented to the church of Rode, Christopher Bonefaunt, pbr. March 6 ‡. 15 and 22 Henry VII. 1500, he served the office of sheriff for Kent ||, in which last year he received the honour of knighthood. 23 Henry VII. he presented to the church of Rode April 5, 1508, Richard Armerer §. 20 Henry VII. he passed in fee farm to John Ludford, gent. his officer and receiver of the manors of Hartshill and Ansley, much of the demesne in Ansley. 6 Henry VIII. 1515, he was a third time appointed sheriff for the county of Kent. The next year he presented to the church of Rode, Jan-

* Rot. Claus. 15 Edw. IV. m. 17.

† Rot. Confirm. 1 Ric. III.

‡ Reg. Ruffel epi Lincoln.

|| He with some others had a grant of the wardship of Tey in Kent.

§ Reg. Smith epi Lincoln.

uary 31, John Day *. 30 Henry VIII. he aliened his manor of Ashene to the crown, a fine being levied betwixt the king and Alexander thereof, and of a moiety of the church also, which in the thirty-third of the same king 1542 was annexed to the manor of Grafton †, and the possessors who have since enjoyed it have held it of the crown by lease.

Sir Alexander impaled Hardreshull with Colepeper, as appears by his seal affixed to a deed, dated May 12, 20 Henry VII.

He married Constantia, daughter of Sir Robert Chamberlaine, by whom he left issue a son, *Thomas* Colepeper, who married Elizabeth one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir William Haut of Hautborn ‡. He was the last of that family that had any thing to do at Hartshill, for in the beginning of the reign of Edward VI. he sold that manor and estate, after it had been in one family, male and female included, four hundred and fifty years, to Sir *Anthony Cook*. And about the same time his younger brother John Colepeper sold the manor, and remaining demesne lands of Ansley, to Edmund and George Wyethe of Loughborough, co. Leicester, gentlemen. A few years before this sale was made, the lands in Hartshill, which had belonged to the lately dissolved monastery of Merevale, were by Henry VIII. in his thirty-first year 1540, granted to Sir William Devereux lord of Chartley and Hensmale, in right of his wife Ann sole daughter and heir to William lord Ferrers of Chartley, lord

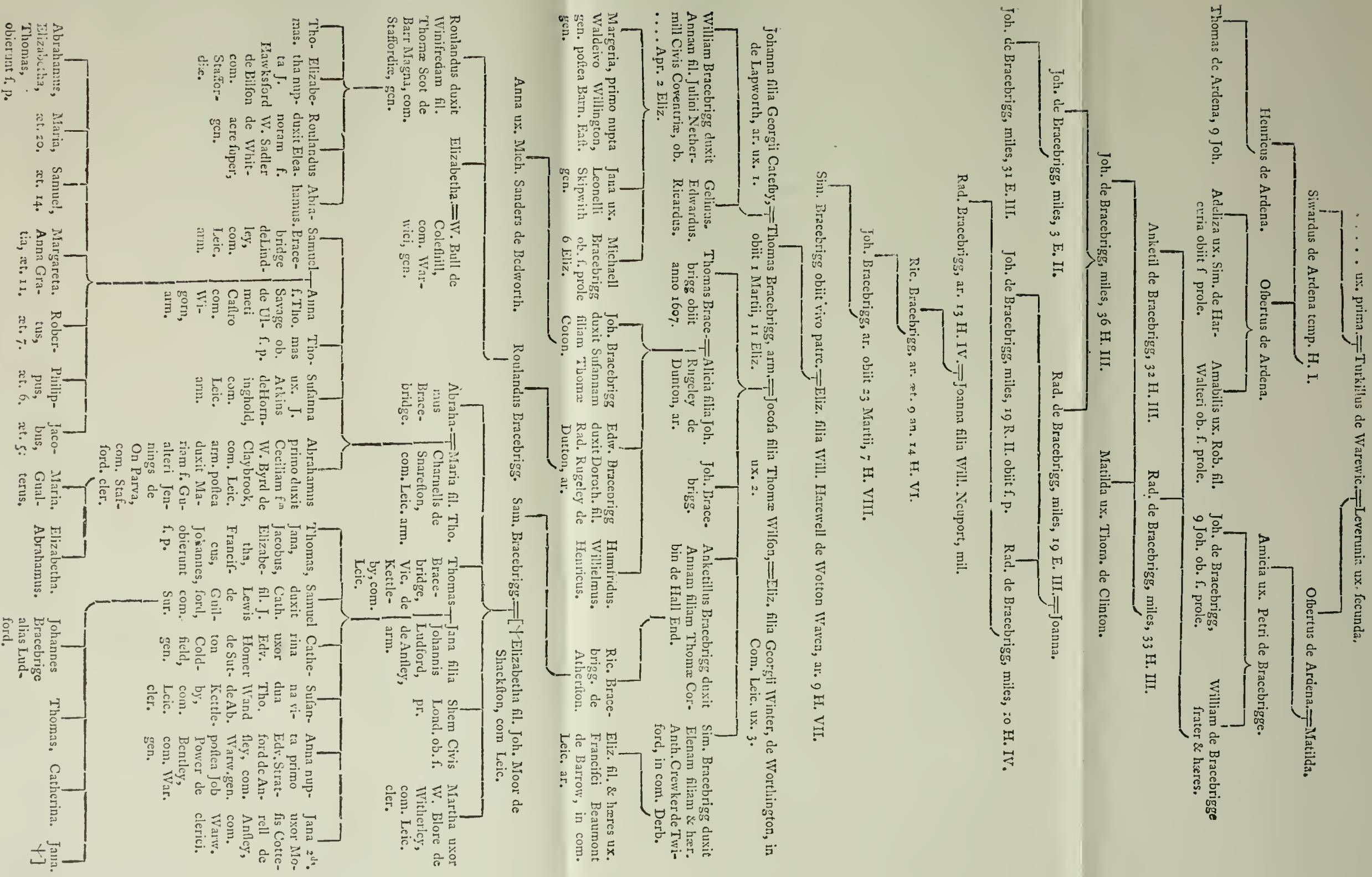
* Reg. W. Atwater epi Lincoln.

In the time that John Day held the church of Rode, Ashene was separated and constituted an independent rectory, in 1535, 26 Henry VIII. rated at 10 l. 3 s. 6 d. out of which to be allowed 3 s. 6 d. for synodals and procurations. Bridges, I. 321.

† Rot. Fin. 30 Hen. VIII. MSS. Hatton. Bridges, ib.

‡ He obtained a grant of the church of Leeds, Yorkshire, part of the possession of the monastery of the Holy Trinity of York, dissolved 30 Henry VIII. 'ex auctoritate parliamenti dudum suppressi et in manibus nostris ad presens existentis.' His son Alexander sold the said advowson to Rowland Cowick of London, gent.

Pedigree of BACEBRIDGE.



Chartley, by the names of a pasture in Hartshill within the parish of Manceter called Parson's Meadow, demised under the rent of six shillings, and of a toft with two crofts demised under the rent of thirteen shillings and four pence; which Sir William gave them to his younger son Sir William, who by his will dated 22 Elizabeth 1580, gave them, after the demise of his lady Jane, to his nephew Walter Devereux, viscount Hereford, and earl of Essex, father to Robert earl of Essex, the great favourite of queen Elizabeth; which Robert being beheaded in 1601, his estate were forfeited, but restored to his son, afterwards general of the parliamentary forces. He dying without issue male 1646, the marchioness of Hereford, one of his sisters and coheirs, with her husband, sold them to John Rimington, from whom and his descendants they are now the property of the Author of this History.

Edward VI. in his third year granted by letters patents, dated December 1, 1549, all the tythes and other the ecclesiastical emoluments of Hartshill to Richard Venables and John Maynard, esquires, to be held as of the manor of East Greenwich; which they regranted to Amias Hill, who did not keep them long, for in 4 Edward VI. 1550, Margaret Booth conveyed them to Robert Green of Weston, from which Robert they came by the Parkers to the Cooks.

Sir Anthony Cook, of Giddyhall in Essex, was the son of Sir John Philip Cook, by Elizabeth one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir Henry Belknap of Ridlingfwould in Kent *, and the great grand-son of Sir Thomas Cook, the founder and builder of Giddyhall, who in April 15, 1465, 4 Edward IV. being then lord mayor of London, was with several others created a knight of

* And in her right possessed of lands in Wapenbury and Derfer, and by purchase in Stockinford, all in the county of Warwick. In 1564, Sir Anthony presented to the church of Derfer.

the Bath, the better to grace the coronation of the queen, late the lady Elizabeth Grey, which was celebrated the next day. In the succeeding year he was charged with high treason, but admitted to bail. But after the marriage of Margaret the king's sister (his great friend) to Charles duke of Burgundy, in 1468 he was arrested and committed to the Tower, his goods seized, and his estates sequestered; and though acquitted of the charge, he could not obtain his liberty without paying the exorbitant fine of eight thousand pounds to the king, and eight hundred marks to the queen: besides this, he suffered great losses from his enemy's servants, who had the keeping of his estates, which were not restored to him until Henry VI. resumed the throne 1470, when he was appointed keeper of the queen's wardrobe, and customer of the port of Southampton; and in this year he again served the office of mayor, as locum tenens for John Skelton, a partizan of the house of York, who, to avoid danger, feigned himself sick. Sir Thomas died 18 Edward IV. 1478.

Sir Anthony was born in 1500, and in 1544 appointed one of the tutors to Edward VI. In Mary's days he was an exile. In the succeeding reign of Elizabeth he repaired and finished Giddy hall, which the losses his great grand-father had suffered had prevented him from doing; and in it he had the honor of entertaining Elizabeth in her progress into Kent in 1568 *. On the front he placed the following lines:

“Ædibus his frontem proavus Thomas dedit olim;

“Addidit Antoni cætera fera manus.”

8 Elizabeth he leased to Michael and Edmond Parker the castellated manor-house at Hartshill, with the park and other lands, amounting to three hundred acres at forty pounds per

* See “Queen Elizabeth's Progresses” under that year.

annum. He married Anne the daughter of Sir William Fitz William of Gain's park, Essex, and of Milton in Northamptonshire; and died at Giddy hall, 18 Elizabeth, 1576, aged 76. He was buried in Rumford chapel, where a stately monument was erected for him, with this inscription :

“ Dominus Antonius Cocus, ordinis equestris miles, ob singularem doctrinam, prudentiam, et pietatem Edovardi institutor constitutus.

Uxorem habuit filiam Gulielmi Fitz Williams de Milton militis, vere piam et generosam, cum qua diu feliciter &c.”

He left issue a son Richard, who succeeded him in his estates, and four daughters ;

Mildred, married to William Cecill lord Burleigh ;

Anne, to Sir Nicholas Bacon lord keeper of the great seal ;

Elizabeth, to Sir John Russell, son and heir of Francis earl of Bedford ;

And Katharine, to Sir Henry Killigrew.

Of these ladies it is said, that they were learned above their sex in Greek and Latin, and equally distinguished by their virtue, piety, and good fortune *.

Richard his son who succeeded to the estate married Anne daughter of John Caulton, Esq. by whom he had a son, *Anthony*, born in 1550, who afterwards enjoyed the estate. He married Avice the daughter of Sir William Waldgrave, and was succeeded by his son Sir *William*, who married Joyce the daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Lucy of Highnam, in Gloucestershire, where he and his posterity afterwards resided. Sir William Cook died 1618, and was succeeded by his son Sir Robert †.

* See their lives, Biographia Britannica, 2d edit. vol. IV. p. 95.

† Arms of Cook, Or a chevron chequè Gules and Azure, between three cinquefoils of the last.

Whilst Sir Anthony Cook possessed this estate, Hartshill gave birth to her celebrated poet and industrious antiquary MICHAEL DRAYTON, descended from the antient family of the Draytons of Drayton in Leicestershire.

He was born 15 Elizabeth, 1563, in this village, and not at Atherston, as Sir William Dugdale says, perhaps led thereto from many of his relations living there at that time, and now not all extinct. But the hamlet of Hartshill derives celebrity from a just claim to his birth, as appears indisputably true from the Latin lines under his portrait, æt. 50, by W. Hole, prefixed to the edition of his works published in his lifetime, and under his own inspection, 1627, which could not have escaped his correction had it been erroneous :

“ Lux Harethula tibi Warwici villa (tenebris

“ Ante tuas cunas obsita) prima fuit.

“ Arma, viros, veneres, patriam, modulamine dixti ;

“ Te patriæ resonant, arma, viri, veneres.”

Had Sir William paid a proper attention to these lines, he would not have made that mistake, which from his great character succeeding writers have adopted.

He studied some time at Oxford, though unnoticed by Wood, as appears from some lines of Sir Aston Cockain's, where, speaking of Oxford, he says,

“ Here smooth-tongu'd Drayton was inspired by

“ Mnemosines's manyfold progeny *.

In 1573, being but ten years old, he appears by his own words † to have been page to some person of honour, able to construe his *Cato* and other sentences, and solicitous with his tutor to *make him a poet*.

* Choice Poems by Sir Aston Cockain, Lond. 1669; 8vo.

† See his Elegies, in his epistle to Henry Reynolds, Esq. of Poets and Poetry.

His “Barons’ Wars, England’s Heroical Epistles, &c.” were first printed without date in the reign of king James, with a dedication in verse to Sir William Aston *. His “England’s Heroical Epistles” were enlarged and reprinted 1598. They are twenty-four, with a summary at the end of each in fourteen lines, and professedly written in the manner of Ovid, on which account William Browne, in his “Britannia’s Pastorals, B. 2. addressees the following lines to him :

“ Our second Ovid the most pleasing muse
 “ That Heav’n did e’er in mortals brain infuse,
 “ All-loved Draiton in soul-raping strains,
 “ A genuine noate of all the nimphish traines
 “ Began to tune ; on it all eares were hung,
 “ As sometime Dido’s on Eneas’ tongue.”

In the undated octavo edition there are near twelve dedications of as many Epistles to the author’s particular friends. From that to Edward earl of Bedford we learn that the author’s muse was first patronized by Sir Henry Goodere, who recommended him to the countess of Bedford, and to whose daughter and her husband his nephew, a namesake, he dedicates two pair more. His other more early and famous historical poems are intituled “*Legends*” of Robert duke of Normandy, Matilda, Gaveston, and Thomas Cromwell earl of Essex, dedicated in his folio edition to Sir Walter Aston, illustrated with notes omitted in the succeeding folio edition. His *Sonnets* were some of them written before the death of queen Elizabeth, and five of them he omitted in his own folio edition. There was an edition of all or most of the poems abovementioned published in 1605, another 1610, and a third undated. His *Odes* were written before the

* In his own folio edition of his works this dedication is in *prose*, and the poems illustrated by marginal notes by the author ; all omitted in the edition of 1748.

death of queen Elizabeth, inserted in his own folio, but omitted in the other, as also his "Fable of the Owl," a pretty allegorical fable first published 1604. In 1626 in the title of one of his poems he is styled *poet laureat*. In 1627 was published in small folio with his effigies as beforementioned the second volume of his poems, containing *The Battle of Agincourt*, *The Miseries of Queen Margaret*, *Nymphidia or the court of faries*, *The quest of Cynthia*, *The Shepherd's Sirena*, *The Mooncalf*, *Twelve Elegies*, *The Vision of B. Jonson on the muses of his friend Michael Drayton*. In 1630 he published another volume of poems, intituled, *The Muse's Elogium on ten sundry Nymphballs*, with three divine poems on Noah's flood, the history of Moses, and David and Goliah; but all these and four of the Elegies are omitted in the edition of 1748.

In 1593, he published a collection of pastorals under the name of "*Idea*, the Shepherd's garland fashioned in nine Eglogs, with Rowland's sacrifice to the Nine Muses, dedicated to Mr. Robert Dudley," 4to. with some other poems, and reprinted in 1619 in the first folio edition of his works with corrections under the title of "*Pastorals*," but omitted in the late folio edition of his work 1748, which are professed to be given complete with additions.

Our poet was one of the foremost in Apollo's train who welcomed James to England with a congratulatory poem published in 1603, which had like to have proved very hurtful to him; which he repented with as much freedom as was then convenient both in prose and verse. In 1613 he published the first part of his *Polyolbion*, which he dedicated to prince Henry, from whom he had received some marks of favour, and of whom a fine portrait exercising his pike is prefixed. This work he left unfinished on the prince's death, till the patronage of Sir Walter Ashton encouraged him to resume it. This first part contained only eighteen songs, illustrated with notes by Mr. Selden.

Selden. In 1622 it was reprinted with the addition of twelve more songs with notes and maps, dedicated to prince Charles, to whom he gave hopes of bestowing the like pains on Scotland.

He spent many of his younger years at Poleworth in the family of Sir Henry Goodyere, to whom he addresses his odes ;

“ These Lyric pieces short and few,
 “ Most worthy Sir, I send to you,
 “ To read them be not weary,
 “ They may become John Hews his lyre,
 “ Which oft at Powllworth by the fire
 “ Has made us gravely merry.”

And his more advanced ones in the service of Sir Walter Aughton of Tixall in Staffordshire, whom he attended as one of his esquires when he was made knight of the Bath at the coronation of James I. and whose feat he gratefully celebrates in these beautiful lines, in his Polyolbion :

“ To Trent by Tixall grac’d the antient Aughton’s feat,
 “ Which oft the muse hath found her safe and sweet retreat,
 “ The noble owners now, of which beloved place,
 “ Good fortunes, them and theirs, with honoured titles grace,
 “ May Heaven still bless that house, till happy floods you see,
 “ Your selves more graced by it, than it by you can be,
 “ Whose bounty still my muse so freely shall confess,
 “ As when she shall want words, her signs shall it express.”

His great love for his native Ardern and her river Ancor, so often expressed in his juvenile poems, did not leave him in more advanced age, when he wrote his Barons’ Wars ; at the close of the second canto of which, he has the following apostrophe :

“ Oh bloody age ! had not these things been done,
 “ I had not now, in these more calmer times,
 “ Into the search of those past troubles run ;
 “ Nor had my virgin unpolluted rhimes

L

“ Alter’d

“ Alter’d the course wherein they first begun,
 “ To sing these horrid and unnatural crimes,
 “ My lays had still been of ideas bower,
 “ Of my dear Ancor, or her loved Stour.”

He died in 1631, aged 68, and was buried in the Poets’ corner in Westminster abbey, near to the graves of Chaucer and Spenser. A handsome table-monument of blue marble was erected the same year, adorned with his bust laureate, on one side is a crest of Minerva’s cap, and on the other Pegasus in an escutcheon on the tablet, and the following inscription ascribed to his friend Ben Jonson :

“ Michael Drayton, Esq.
 A memorable poet of this age,
 Exchanged his laurel for a crown of glory, 1631.
 Do, pious marble, let thy readers know,
 What they and what their children owe
 To Drayton’s name, whose sacred dust
 We recommend unto thy trust.
 Protect his memory and preserve his story,
 Remain a lasting monument of his glory.
 And when thy ruins shall disclaim
 To be the treasurer of his name,
 His name that cannot fade shall be
 An everlasting monument to thee.”

Many of his contemporaries * bore testimony to his abilities as a poet and historian; one of whom, Sir Ashton Cockain before cited, writes,

“ Phoebus, art thou a God, and canst not give
 “ A privilege unto thy own to live?
 “ Else still, my Drayton, thou hadst liv’d and writ,
 “ Thy life had been immortal as thy wit.”

* Shakespear, Jonson, Beaumont, Burton, Selden, &c.

And in our days he has not been neglected. His "Polyolbion" appears in most of our county histories; and many descriptive poets have paid him compliments, which may be seen in his life in the old edition of "Biographia Britannica," note [E].

Dyer, in his "Fleece :"

" He whose rustic Muse
" O'er heath and craggy holt her wing display'd,
" And sung the bosky bourns of Alfred's shires."

James Fitz Patric, in his "Sea-piece," Canto 2.

" Drayton, sweet antient bard, his Albion sung,
" With their own praise her echoing vallies rung;
" His bounding muse o'er every mountain rode,
" And every river warbled where it flow'd."

William Burton, the Leicestershire antiquary, speaking of him as his near countryman and old acquaintance, adds, " who tho
" those Transalpines account us *tramontani*, rude and barbarous,
" holding our brains so frozen, dull, and barren, that they can
" afford no invention or conceits; yet may compare either with
" their old Dante, Petrarch, or Boccace, or their neoteric Mari-
" nella, Pignatello, or Stigliano: but why should I go about to
" recommend him, whose own works and worthiness have suffi-
" ciently extolled to the world * ?"

A great modern critick says, " Drayton, no despicable genius
" at the epistolary mode of writing, has left us some good sub-
" jects, though not very artfully handled. In his ' Barons'
" Wars' there are many strokes not unworthy of Spenser, and
" his ' Nymphidia' must be allowed a perfect pattern of pastoral
" elegance †."

* Description of Leicestershire, p. 92.

† Warton's Essay on the Genius and Writings of Pope, vol. I. p. 295. 2d edit.

A T H E R S T O N.

THE town and manor is bounded on the East by Manceter; on the North by the Ankor, on the further banks of which are the parishes of Witherley and Sheepy, in Leicestershire; on the West by Whittington and Merevale; and on the South by Bentley.

The town stands on the Watling Street, and consists of one tolerably well-built street of half a mile in length, with a square market-place lying on the North side of the street about the middle. It has on the further side the friary church, near which stood the friary, but that is entirely gone.

That this town was founded by the Saxons is certain, but the particular time cannot be ascertained. Its first name was *Ardeston*, the town in Arden, or in the great wood*, altered afterwards to *Aderefton*, *Aldredeston*, *Edredefton* †, *Aldredeston*, *Adtberefton*, and now *Atherfton*, or *stone*. In the Confessor's days it was the property of the countess *Godiva*, and by the Conqueror given to his nephew *Hugh Lupus*.

In Domesday it is written *Aderefton*, and is there rated at three hides and five caracutes, the woods then belonging thereto being

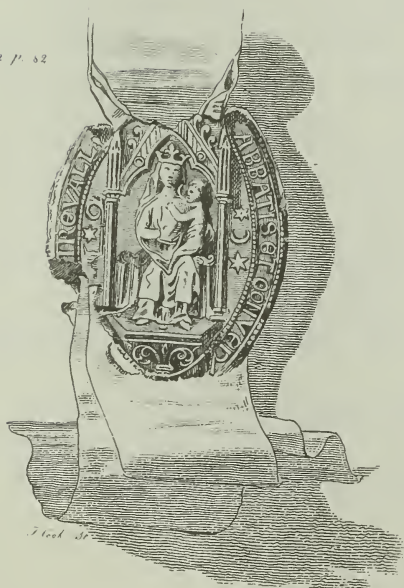
* Arduen, Ardven, or Arden, signifies the great wood. See Whitaker's Manchester, p. 26.

† Ex autogr. pen. præpos. et schol. coll. regalis Cantab.

Datu Anno dñi. 9. cc. 2. nq. 3. tercio.



Fig 2 p. 82



Young del. 1811

*The Seal of the Monastery of Morevales
From the Original Seal in the Augmentation Office.*

Fig 3 p. 78



The Seal of Rob. Earl Ferrers.

esteemed two miles in length, and as much in breadth, which with the rest were valued lately at forty shillings, now sixty shillings; there were also eleven villans, two bordarii, and one servant with four caracutes more, and six acres of meadow, the vills of Mancester and Oldbury being included.

TERRA COMITISSÆ GODEVÆ. IN COLESHELLE HD.

Ip̃sa comitissa tenuit in ADERESTONE . III . hid̃ . Tra . ē . v . car̃ .

Ibi sunt . XI . uilli 7 II . bord . 7 I . seruus cū . IIII . car̃ .

Ibi . VI . ac̃ p̃ti . Silua . II . leuu l̃g̃ . 7 II . leuu lat̃ .

Valuit . XL . solid̃ . Modo . LX . solid̃ .

Ip̃sa comitissa tenuit in ARDRESHILLE 7 HANSLEI . II . hid̃ .

Tra . ē . VII . car̃ . Ibi sunt . XIII . uilli cū . v . car̃ . Ibi . VI . ac̃ p̃ti .

Valuit . IIII . lib̃ . Modo . c . solid̃ .

Hugh Lupus, who died 2 Henry I. 1101, gave this manor to the monks of Bec in Normandy, which donation was afterwards confirmed by Henry II. where relating the several grants made to them, he says, “De dono comitis Hugonis Cestrie in Anglia “manerium quod vocatur *Aldredeson* *.” 30 Henry III. 1246, the monks obtained a yearly fair, to last three days, beginning on the eve of the nativity of the blessed Virgin, sc. 7 September †, and the next year ensuing, a market weekly on Tuesday, for which they having a special charter, with a confirmation of the fair, gave a fine of a hundred shillings to the king ‡.

* Cart. 12 Hen. III. n. 11. per inspex. Monast. Angl. vol. II. p. 954.

† Claus. 30 Hen. III. m. 6.

‡ In arce Londinenfi. Rot. Cart. 31 Hen. III. m. 13. Rot. Fin. 31 Hen. III. m. 13.

A subsequent charter of confirmation to the monks of Bec of all their privileges was granted to them at the consecration of their new church, rebuilt in 1178 by Henry II. Penes B. Bartlet, the seal much broken. See the seal of this abbey in plate X. fig. 1.

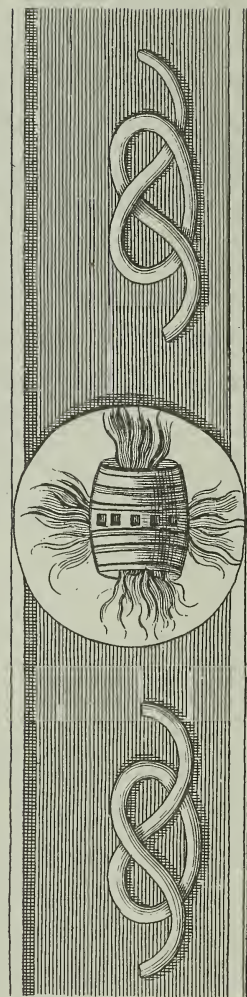
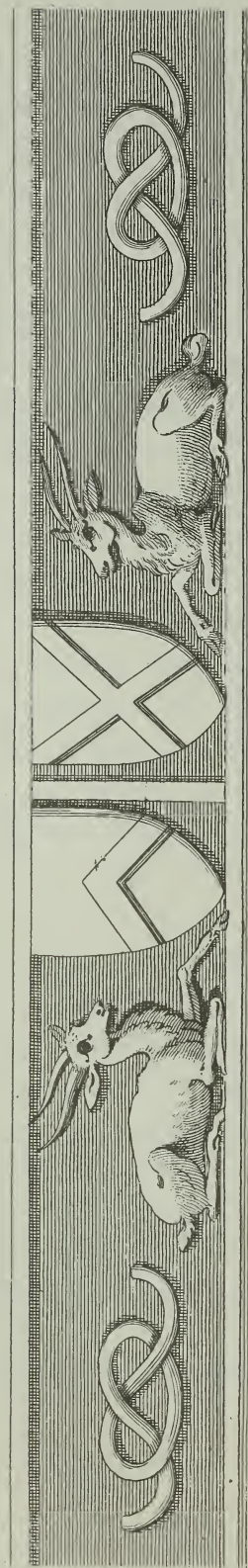
Some time after this *Robert de Ferrariis*, grandson to William VI. earl of Derby, by Agnes one of the sisters and co-heirs of Ranulf de Blundevill, the last heir male of Hugh Lupus, succeeding to the estate on the death of his father William. 38 Henry III. 1254, confirmed to the monks of Bec the manor of Atherston, given to them by his ancestor. His deed may be seen in the Appendix, N° XI.

About the beginning of the reign of Edward I. *Ralph de Culy* laid claim to this manor, pretending that his ancestors were possessed of it. This produced a suit betwixt himself and the monks, which 3 Edward I. 1275 was determined in favour of the monastery. 13 Edward I. 1285, the monks challenged divers privileges here, as gallows, pillory, thew, assise of bread and beer, market, fair, and toll, exhibiting the charter of Henry III. for the same, and proving that they had enjoyed them accordingly without interruption; all which were allowed.

But soon after this it came to be reputed as a member of the priory of Okeburn, co. Wilts, as in the taxation of the temporalities of the religious houses 19 Edward I. 1291, as also in the *Nomina villarum* 9 Edward II. 1316. But this was for no other reason than that the priory of Okeburn was a cell to Bec. As the market increasing very much from its convenient situation, as well to the inhabitants of the Arden as to those of the Fieldon, brought great advantages to the inhabitants, so in winter it brought great quantities of dirt, for the remedying whereof they obtained a patent 12 Edward II. 1319, which is directed *Balivo et probis hominibus de &c.* *; empowering them to take toll of all vendible commodities brought thither for sale for four years, towards defraying the charge of paving the town, a farthing for every horseload or quarter of corn, that is three

* Rot. Pat. 12 Edw. II. pars 2. m. 16. in arce Lond.

farthings



farthings of our present money, and according to lord Lyttelton's calculation about five pence farthing in value. But this not finishing the work, 17 Edward III. 1343, they obtained another patent * for five years, increasing the toll to one half-penny per horseload or quarter, which by the reduction of the weight of the penny in the succeeding year did not increase the value to more than eight pence or thereabouts. About this time, 17 Edward III. the monks of Bec, weary of the frequent seizures of their lands in this realm into the king's hands during his wars with France, obtained leave in his eighteenth year † to dispose of this manor to the monks of *Merevale* ‡, but this was not done; for 7 Henry IV. 1406, upon the seizure of the lands belonging to the foreign monasteries, this as a member of the priory of Okeburn before mentioned was demised to *William Brinklow* clerk, then parson or rector of Manceter, and *Peter Purly* one of the lords of the same place, by *John* the king's son, afterwards duke of Bedford, and Thomas Langley, chancellor, who had a grant of all the lands belonging to the priory for twenty years, at the rate of forty pounds per annum ||. This grant being expired, and the duke of Bedford dying some years after, 14 Henry VI. 1445, the king in his sixteenth year gave it for life to *Humphrey* earl of *Stafford* §, who soon after exchanged some estates in Staffordshire with *John de Clinton* for Maxtoke castle, which he repaired, and made it one of his principal habitations. Amongst other repairs he made a pair of gates, which he caused to be covered with plates of iron, on one of which

* Atherston maner. de Libertat. Abb. de Becco Harlewyni ibidem. Esch. 17 Edw. III. n. 78.

† Pat. 18 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 43.

‡ Pat. 19 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 12. Licentia regia pro manerio de Atherston a monachis Beccensibus perquirendo.

|| Pat. 7 Hen. IV. in d. m. 10.

§ Pat. 16 Hen. VI. p. 2. m. 33.

were embossed his arms, a chevron, and his lady's a saltire, with his supporters two antilopes, and on the other his badges, a burning nave and knot. As these yet remain on the gates as a piece of antiquity, I have given an engraving thereof in plate XI.

Within six years after this the king granted the reversion of this manor to the provost and scholars of his newly founded *college at Cambridge* *; but of this grant it does not appear that the college reaped any advantage; for 31 Henry 1453, it was granted to *Edmund* earl of *Richmond* the king's half brother and his heirs †. But this did not continue much longer than the reign of Henry; for Edward in his second year 1462, gave it with Fulbroke in this county to *Richard Nevill* ‡ earl of *Warwick*, his great friend and partizan; but he soon after deserting the interest of the house of York, and joining that of Lancaster, Edward gave this manor to the Carthusian monks of *Mountgrace* in Yorkshire in 1464 §, and in his seventh year to the *Free Chapel of St. George at Windsor*, as by his charter does appear. See Appendix, N° II.

This grant however was of no effect, for the monks of Mountgrace enjoyed it till the dissolution of their house; yet not without trouble, for in 4 Henry VII. 1489, on the petition of the

* Pat. 22 Hen. VI. p. 2. m. 15.

† Pat. 31 Hen. VI. p. 2. m. 26.

‡ This great, ambitious, and busy nobleman was killed at Barnet.

§ In 3 Richard III. 1485, Henry earl of Richmond, afterwards king by the style of Henry VII. marching his forces towards Leicester, betwixt which and Coventry the troops of Richard were encamped, came to Lichfield, whence the lord Stanley retired to Atherston. The next day the earl staying a little behind his army near Tamworth lost his way, and being afraid of a discovery by making enquiries, stopped all night in a village, and the next morning rejoined his army at Atherston, where he had a conference with lord Stanley that evening. He was joined by John Hardwick of Lindley co. Leicester, with some troops and able horses, who the next morning conducted him to the field of battle, obtaining for him by his knowledge of those parts the advantages of the ground, wind, and sun. See Nichols's "History of Hinckley," pp. 100. 332.

§ Pat. 1 Edw. IV. p. 1. m. 11.

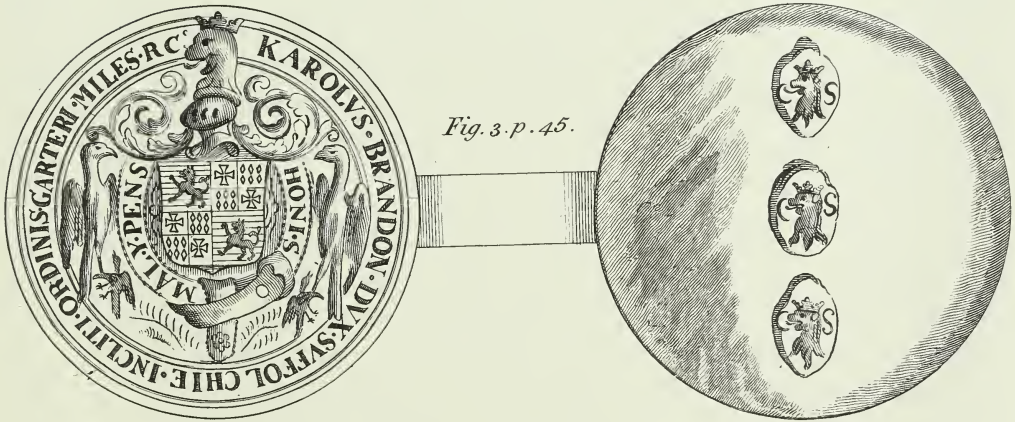
Fig. 1. p. 26.



Fig. 2. p. 80.



Fig. 3. p. 45.



provost and scholars of King's college, in a parliament then held, it was enacted that John archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas archbishop of York, John bishop of Ely, John bishop of Lincoln, Thomas earl of Arundel, John earl of Oxford, Thomas earl of Derby, John Dyneham, knt. lord Dyneham, William Hufsey, knt. and Thomas Bryan, knt. should have full power to determine the claim of the said college to the manor of Atherston against the monks of Mountgrace; but I do not find they made any award. Afterwards in 16 Henry VII. 1501, the said college and the prior and monks of Mountgrace entered into bonds alternately, to stand to the award of Richard bishop of Durham, John Fineux, knt. chief justice of the King's Bench, and Reginald Grey, knt. chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaster; but nothing appears to have been done therein. On the 22d of January, 1505, 20 Henry VII. Thomas Frowick, knt. chief justice of the Common Pleas, and John Kingsmill, another justice of the same, were chosen arbitrators between the parties, of whom the abbot and the convent of Merevale were now one, and they made an award, that the abbot and convent of Merevale should release all their right in the premisses to the prior and convent of Mountgrace before the feast of St. Michael then following; and within five years after the date of the said award should make a release to the provost and scholars of King's college, and should warrant the same against the dean of St. Paul's; and that the prior and convent of Mountgrace, and the provost and scholars of King's college, should jointly pay to the abbot and convent of Merevale 113 l. 6 s. 8 d. and that all the parties should be discharged of all actions and suits against each other. Afterwards in the same year, on the 2d of May, Richard bishop of Winchester, John Fineux, knt. chief justice of the King's Bench, Thomas Frowick, knt. chief justice, and John Kingsmill justice of the Common Pleas, were chosen arbitrators between the monks of

M.

Mountgrace

Mountgrace and the provost and scholars of King's college; and they awarded Atherston to King's college, and an annuity of sixteen pounds per annum to sue out of it to the monks. Notwithstanding which award, by what agreement is not known, the prior and convent continued in the possession of this manor until the dissolution of this house, and King's college received from them the said yearly pension of sixteen pounds per annum *, which they yet continue to receive.

26 Henry VIII. 1535, a survey was taken of all the religious houses, from which it appears that the abbey of Merevale had messuages and lands in this place of the yearly value of six pounds, two shillings †. There yet indeed remains a tax of six shillings payable to the vicar of Merevale, out of six dwelling houses, some of which were the same messuages ‡. Some time after this the dissolution of the monasteries took place; and 28 Henry VIII. 1537, the court of Augmentations was established, from whom Amias Hyll of this place, and one of the queen's household, obtained a lease for twenty-one years of the public bakehouse, and sixty-two acres of land. This bakehouse had been long established, for we find 12 Richard II. 1388, several inhabitants were fined for not baking at the public bakehouse §.

* Dr. Thomas's edition of Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 1084, ex epistolis Rich. Harding, Coll. Reg. soc.

† From the roll in the First Fruits office, " Et de 6 l. 2 s. reddit. assise de Atherston vel Addereston."

‡ In the year 1778 the inhabitants of those houses, as in the vicar's book, were Mrs. Reynolds, Joseph Spencer, Joseph Baker, Samuel Orton, Mr. Jescote, and Mr. Hunt.

§ This bakehouse was sold in 1672. The name yet remains in a very short street going out of the market-place, called Bakehouse-lane, and where, 1780, stands the horse-mill at which the lord's tenants are obliged to grind their malt.

N. B. In the History of Manchester it is remarked, that at Knutsford in Cheshire the payment at the lord's oven was an obolus for every bushel of wheat baked into bread.

Two years after, 30 Henry VIII. 1539, this manor was granted to *Henry marquis of Dorset*, and *Thomas Duport*, and to the heirs of the said marquis for ever*; yet in the reign of Edward VI. this manor is valued, as by the court-roll taken by George Medley, Esq. Robert Burdet, and others for the marquis of Dorset.

	£.	s.	d.
" The demayn lands - - - -	14	12	8
" Two mills, viz. one on the river Anker, and one			
" a horse mill in the town - -	7	13	4
" The bakehouse - - - -	1	10	0
" A barn in the market place - -	0	6	8
" Rents from customary tenants † - -	11	9	4
" 120 acres in the outwoods, at 6 s. 8 d. -	38	0	0
	73	12	0

The heriot the tenant's best beast.

On the attainder of the marquis of Dorset, 1 Mary, it returned again to the crown, and 1 and 2 Philip and Mary was granted to *William Devereux*, Esq. which William, afterwards a knight, died seized thereof, 21 Elizabeth, 1579, leaving Margaret the wife of Edward Lyttleton of Pillaton hall, co. Stafford, and Barbara the wife of Edward Hastings, his daughters and heirs.

Sir *John Repington*, knt. of Amington in this county, marrying *Margaret* the daughter and heiress of Edward Littleton, brought this manor into his family.

* Pat. 37 Hen. VIII. p. 13.

† Among the customary tenants are,

	l.	s.	d.
The guild for their burghs and land	1	10	10
"	0	19	6½
The chantry	0	14	5
	3	4	9½

This family of the Repingtons are descended from Simon, who lived in the reign of William Rufus.

Roger Repington, grand-son of Simon, was cofferer to the empress Maud.

Sir Richard Repington, son of Roger, was seized of the lordships of Faukingham, Danderbie, and Thorpe in the Willows, as is mentioned in a deed dated anno Domini 1173. He lived in the twentieth year of king Henry II. and was slain at a just, holden at Woodstock, in the triumph before the king, anno 1178.

Thomas son of Sir Richard Repington was at the battle of Poitiers in the reign of king Edward III. and being taken prisoner and distressed, he was constrained to sell his lands in the county of Lincoln (the lordships of Repington, Faukingham, Danderby, and Thorpe in the Willows, cum membris) to Sir Henry Marmion, knt. lord chief justice, anno 40 Edw. III; and lyeth buried in the monastery of Sempringham.

Matthew, son of Sir Richard, married Barbara daughter of Thomas Kaye of Okenshaw in the county of York: she bears Argent two bendlets Sable.

Adam Repington, Esq. eldest son of Thomas, was standard-bearer to king Richard II. and had by the gift of the said king the wardship of Marian, afterwards his wife, daughter of Henry Lambarð, from whom descended certain lands in Long Sutton in the county of Lincoln, Oldgate, Gannock, Sutton St. Edmond's, Horsomore, and Lutton, and who died the last of Richard II. and lies buried at Long Sutton.

This Adam was justice of the peace and quorum, and custos rotulorum of Holland and Kirton, commonly called the king of Elloe, Kirton and Scirebeck hundreds, who took the abbot of Crowland prisoner *, 1397, 21 Richard II. for which service he

* Thomas de Overton 1392, died 1417.

was rewarded by Robert viscount Fitzwalter, general of the field, with a demi antelope Gules for his crest, maned, bearded, tusked, and hoofed Or, and billeted Argent to be borne by him and his posterity for ever.

William Repington of the county of Suffolk, son of Adam, lived in the year 1451, 30 Henry VI. being auditor to Richard Nevill, the noble earl of Warwick, and died the same year.

Matthew Repington.

Adam Repington.

William Repington in the time of Henry VI. married a daughter of Thurstan.

William Repington, married Alicia daughter of Roger Aston.

John Repington 3 Henry VII. married Colletta daughter and coheir of John Goldsmith of Goldsmith hall, near Melton, co. Leicester.

William Repington died 36 Henry VIII. 1545, having married Joan daughter of Robert Stokes of Folkestone near Coventry.

Francis Repington died 4 Edward VI. 1550, having married Mary daughter of Richard Coton of Ridfware co. Stafford.

Thomas Repington, Esq. died December 14, 1615, having married Frances daughter of William Stanford, one of the justices of the Common Pleas.

John Repington died January 23, 1625. He was the first owner of Atherston, and married Margaret daughter of Sir Edward Lyttleton of Pillaton hall co. Stafford, knt.

Sir John Repington, knt. his son married Elizabeth daughter of Edward Sebright of Besford co. Worcester, bart.

Sebright Repington, Esq. 1633, married Catharine daughter of Thomas Burdet of Foremark co. Derby, and died without issue.

Edward

Edward Repington died 1663, without issue, having married Mary daughter of Sherington Talbot of Laycock co. Wilts.

Their son Gilbert Repington married Jane daughter of Sir Thomas Vernon, knt. of London.

Charles Repington married Matilda Vernon.

Charles Edward Repington unmarried, now (1779) an officer in the 6th regiment of dragoons.

Repington bears Gules a fess double dancet Ermine between six billets Argent.

A list of charitable bequests belonging to the town of
Atherston.

	£.	s.	d.	
Mr. Richard Abell a house	2	5	0	{ to place out appren- tices.
Mr. Harrington Drayton	5	5	0	{ to find jerkins and hats for women.
Mr. Martin, out of lands called Causeway closes	12	0	0	{ to find coats and hats for men.
Mr. Sharp gave land	5	0	0	{ to put out appren- tices in Atherston and Bosworth.
Mr. Strong gave money vested in the workhouse, per annum	0	10	0	for bread.
Ditto vested in the school- master's house	0	13	4	{ and to fourteen wi- dows.
Mr. Bracebridge out of the lands in Hartshill to be distributed by the vicar	1	0	0	to the poor.
	£	26	13	4
Mrs. Alice Coney, out of lands in Hartshill, to be distributed by the church- wardens and overseers	2	0	0	to the poor.

T H E F R I A R Y.

WITHIN the precincts of this town was an antient chapel, to which in the beginning of the reign of Henry II. the monks of Bec gave twelve acres of land, at the same time entering into an agreement with the parson of Manceter, as in the history of the said church is fully expressed. How long this agreement was observed is very uncertain; not longer than the reign of Edward II. for on the ides of July 1329, 3 Edward III. leave was granted to Robert Freeman of Atherston, by Richard Northbrook, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to have divine service celebrated in the chapel of that town for three years *: after this time no further licences are recorded.

In the forty-ninth of the same reign, Ralph lord Bassett of Drayton founded here an house for friars hermits of the order of St. Augustine on twelve acres of land †; at the same time they began to build the church, subject to certain articles with the parson of Manceter. This church seems to have been founded on the site of the old chapel, and the lands to have been those which had been given to the old chapel, at least those adjoining the site of the friary; the parson no doubt readily assenting, being thereby excused from attendance there. To this I add, that many human bones have been lately dug up in the cemetery of this church, and none that I have heard of in any other part of the town; and as neither traces of the building nor tradition of its site are to be found, until a happier conjecture offers, this may account for the disposal of the antient chapel.

* 11 Idus Julii 1339, Rogerus de Northbrook concessit Roberto Freeman de Atherston, ut possit divina facere celebrari in capella de Atherston per triennium. Reg. Northbrook, f. 6. a.

† Pat. 49 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 17.

This church and buildings were not compleated till the reign of Richard II; lord Bassett their founder, by his will * bearing date at London, September 2, 1382, 7 Richard II. giving them a legacy of five hundred marks for the compleating thereof †; and this seems to have been all the legacy given to that friary, except so late as 1 Henry VIII. that Sir Walter Raleigh of Farnborough gave them ten pounds, by his will dated June 20, 1509.

In 26 Henry VIII. their estate was valued at thirty shillings and four pence per ann. over and above reprisals, and came to the crown the next year by the act of dissolution 27 Henry VIII. 15.

Richard Devereux a friar, one of the commissioners and visitors, in his letter of the 25th of May to lord Cromwell, says of Atherston :

“ Atherston, a house of Austin friars, but so poor that they were not able to pay my costs nor give me one penny of the accustomed contribution due to their visitor, has got land lying contiguous leased out at four marks per annum, the furniture but worth xc shillings, except a chalice and a bell. That the late prior had felled and sold seven score good elms, a chalice gilt of ^{xx}_{iii} ounces and ten ounces, and a censor of thirty-six ounces, two great brass pots each able to seeth a great ox as men say, spits, parcenys, and other things, so that in the house there is no furniture left; there I found in his coffers eleven bulls of the bishops of Rome, above a hundred letters of pardons, and in all the books in the gallery the bishop of Rome standing as he did twenty years ago. I have set a poor friar to keep mass there, and have provided for his board and living to be paid sixteen pence per week ‡.”

* Ex autog. pen. Will. vicecom. Stafford. Dugd. Warwicksh. ubi sup.

† This lord Bassett, founder of this friary, the last lord Bassett of Drayton, dying without issue, was magnificently entombed in Lichfield cathedral, on the South side of St. Chad's shrine, but his monument has been totally destroyed.

‡ See the whole letter, Appendix, N^o XIII.

The nave or western end of this church was some time after granted to the inhabitants for a chapel of ease to the church of Mancester; and at the same time all burials, baptisms, &c. were to be performed at Mancester. Camden in the last edition of his *Britannia* published by himself in 1607, says, “Atherston
“mercatus frequens ubi fraterculorum ædes in capellam con-
“versæ quæ tamen ecclesiam de Mancester ut matrem ag-
“novit *.”

In the late Bracebridge gave to the vicar of Mancester ten pounds per annum, in consideration of a sermon being preached here every Sunday afternoon; which with some more small bequests occasioned it to be returned to the governors of Queen Anne’s charity, at eleven pounds five shillings per ann. †. And in . . . a South aisle of brick was added to the nave of this church, which has entirely destroyed the beauty thereof, and to compleat the deformity of the whole have taken down the antient plain tower so well suited to such a building, and in the room thereof have erected an humble imitation of a modern Gothic one ‡. See it engraved plate XII.

The chancel was very early appropriated for the free-school. The site and circuit of the house, with a dove coat, barn, orchard, and two messuages, standing on the same ground, were in the year 1542 granted to *Henry Cartwright* and his heirs, to hold by the thirtieth part of a knight’s fee §; which Henry sold them || to *Amias Hyll*, from whose descendants they came by

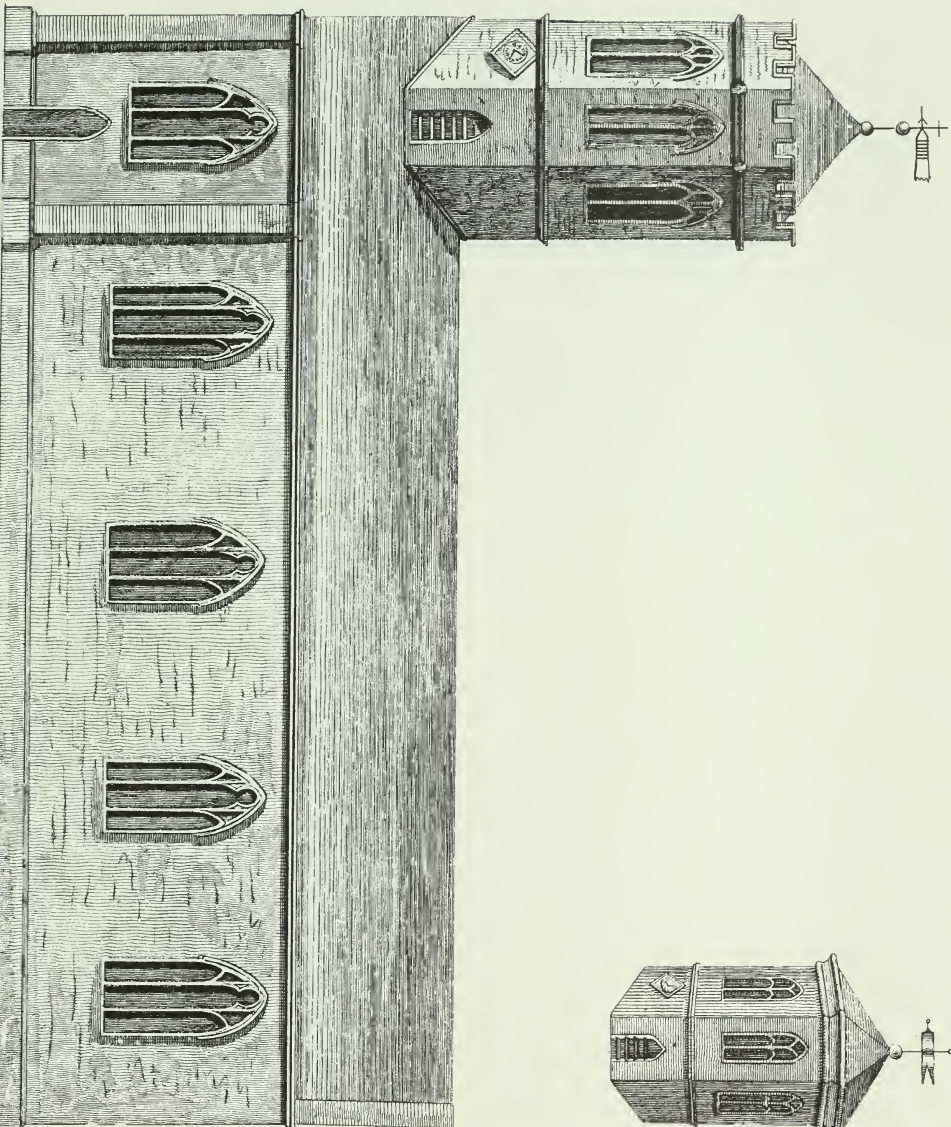
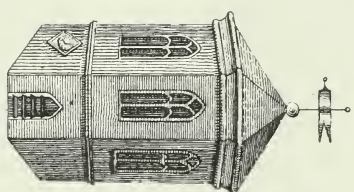
* It appears from the omission of this paragraph in all the translations of this valuable author, except Holland’s and the republication of bishop Gibson’s 1772, by Mr. Scott, I. p. 454, that this last edition of 1607 had been passed by without notice.

† See Dr. Thomas.

‡ A facetious auctioneer said one day, that he supposed the architect had been bred a pastry-cook or confectioner.

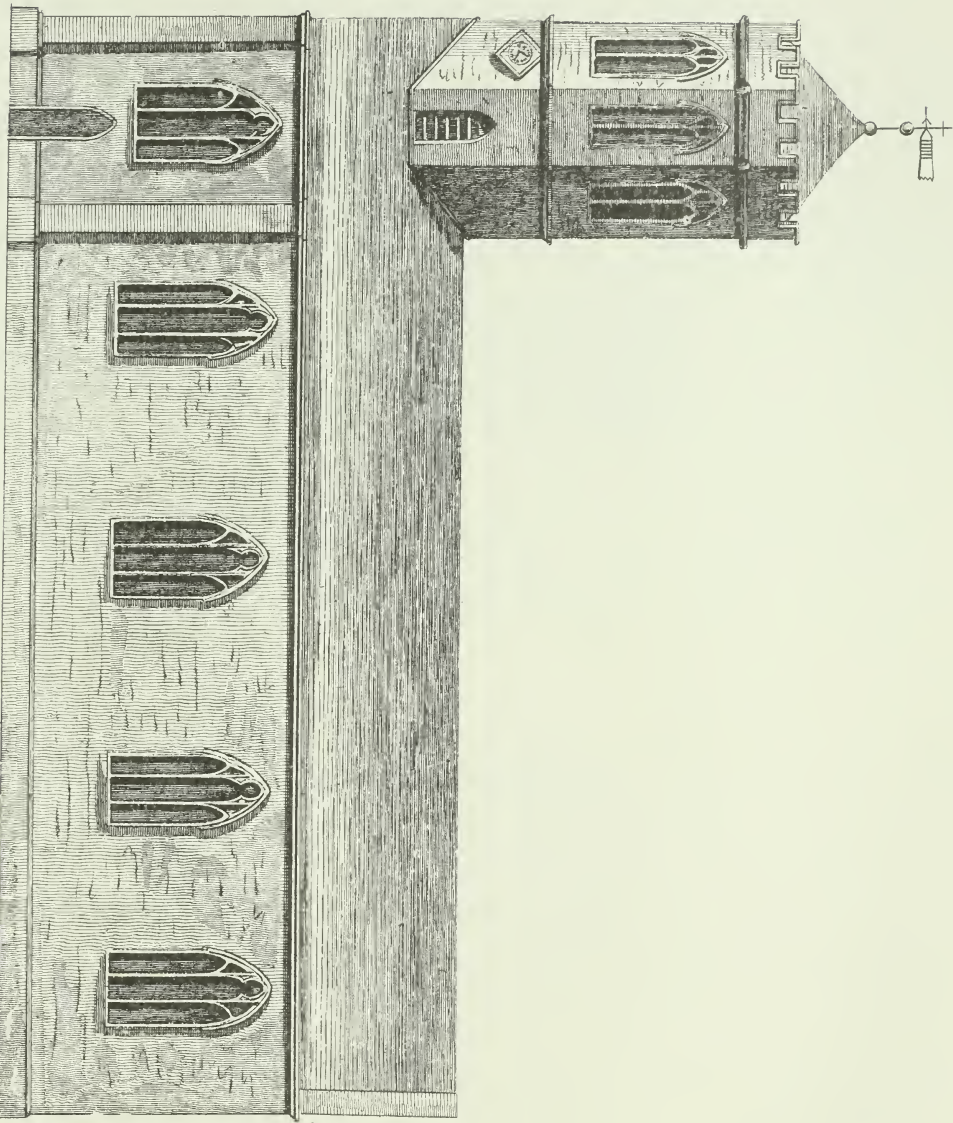
§ Pat. 35 Hen. VIII. p. 3.

|| Ibid. p. 18.



1804. R.

*The North Elevation of Althorpe Chapel.
And another Drawing of the Tower, done from Memory, as it was supposed to be before the last alteration*



The North Elevation of Atherton Chapel.

W. H. Stiles del.

Fig. 1 p. 91.

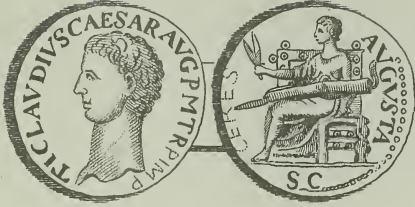


Fig. 2 p. 91.

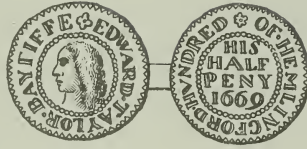
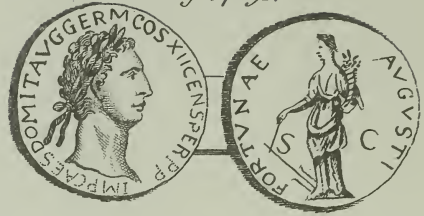


Fig. 4 p. 91.

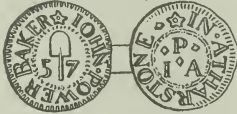


Fig. 5 p.



Fig. 6 p.



Fig. 3 p. 91.



The Seal of the Free Grammar School in Atherstone.

Fig. 7 p. 91.

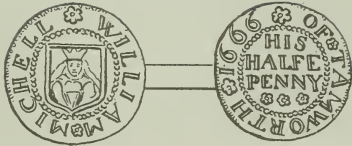
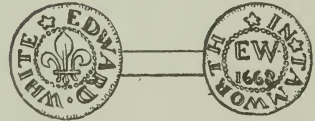


Fig. 7 p. 91.



purchase to Sir John Repington, then owner of the manor, who built himself a fair house of brick, where he resided till he died 1625. One of his descendants sold it to . . . *Bracebridge*, who took the same down, and built the present mansion house, which very lately has been much improved, also the grounds about it. In doing of this, the old cemetery being dug up, amongst the human bones was found an amulet or female ornament of serpentine stone*. It had been highly perfumed; and though it has now been several years out of the earth, yet retains some of its smell.

The free grammar-school of Atherston was founded 15 Elizabeth, 1573, by Sir William Devereux (then residing at Merevale), Thomas Fulner, and Amyas Hyll; Sir William having obtained leave to purchase lands for the endowment thereof, the greatest part of which lye at Dosthill; and for a school-house appropriated the chancel or Eastern end of the friary church †, in which the same continues to be kept.

In 1607 the governors were,
 Christopher Goodall,
 Edmund Sheepy,
 Richard Abell,
 Thomas Launder,
 John Roper,
 Edward Drayton, and

Francis Grew; who, with Francis Purefoy, steward of the court of Dosthill, met there April 11, 1607, when Christopher Goodall and Richard Abell were elected bayliffs, and in the same year obtained a decree in chancery for the settlement of their lands, and in the succeeding year a charter of incorporation with a common seal ‡.

* Pat. 15 Eliz. p. 1.

† See a view of it, with the chapel, in Plate XV. fig. 1.

‡ See this engraved in plate XIII. fig. 3. In the same plate, fig. 1. and 2. are two of the Roman coins mentioned in p. 12. Of the tradesmens tokens, fig. 4, 5, 6, were issued at Atherston; fig. 7, 8, at the neighbouring town of Tamworth; and fig. 9. by the bailiff of Hemlingford Hundred.

At which time the rents were,	£.	s.	d.
For lands in Dosthill,	9	0	0
a cottage	0	10	0
rent of the Moor in Whittington	3	0	0
rent of Sheepy's house	1	6	8
rent of Sadler's house	0	13	4
rent of William Drayton's	0	5	0
rent charge of Ralph Goodall's	0	6	8
rent of widow Drayton's	0	5	0
rent of Amyas Hyll's land,	1	6	8
	16	13	4

In 1621, Amias Mabell built a fire-place in the school; and left twenty pounds, the interest one half to be applied for purchasing coals in the winter season, and the other half for buying books for the poor scholars.

Over the chimney the following lines are but very indifferently engraved :

“ Parve, quid horrescas brumali tempore musas,

“ En tibi quam pulchrum condidit iste focum.

“ AMIAS MABELL.”

The trustees for this bequest were,

Francis Grew,	Walter Drayton,
Richard Goodall,	Henry Sheepy,
John Roper,	Thomas Byard,
Philip Griffin,	John Abell.

In 1698, Henry Badderly was appointed English master, to teach writing and accompts, pursuant to the will of William Symons, of Atherlton, deceased. This school was first kept in the lower part of the grammar-school, but now is separated by a brick wall erected in 17 . . .

A list

A list of school masters.

1608, James Crawford.

1612, Thomas Whitehead.

1614, Christopher Davenport.

1622, John Mafon.

1623, Thomas Bedford, by resignation.

1632, Obadiah Grew; he took his degree of M. A. in 1635; and resigned in 1642, upon his being elected minister of St. Michael's, Coventry.

1643, John Perkins in 1649 quarelling with the trustees obtained a commission of charitable uses to enquire into their conduct. Two of the commissioners, Waldive Willington, Esq. and Walter Newton, took examinations at Nun Eaton, and afterwards made a decree at Coleshill, which gave so much umbrage to the trustees, as to induce them to try by a bill in chancery to set the decree aside; but that not succeeding, the contending parties entered into articles of agreement and settled the same.

1695, Charles Crook.

1698, April 26, Thomas Shaw.

1712, November 27, Richard Blore.

1721, Rev. William Finch, LL. B. fellow of St. John's college, Oxon.

1726, Rev. Thomas Shaw.

1748, Rev. William Biddle.

1773, Rev. John Mitchell, rector of Grindon.

Of writers, natives of this town, I find only two, *Obadiah Grew* and his son *Nebemiah*.

Obadiah Grew was born at Atherston, in the parish of Manchester, in the county of Warwick, in November 1607. He was principally educated under the care of his uncle Mr. John Denison,

son, and admitted at Baliol college, Oxford, 1624, under the tuition of Mr. Richard Trimmell. In 1632 he was elected master of the free-school in Atherston; in 1635 he took the degree of master of arts, and was ordained at the age of twenty-eight by Dr. Robert Wright bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. In 1642 he resigned his school, being elected minister of St. Michael's, Coventry, in which he discharged the duty of a faithful and diligent pastor. In 1651, he accumulated the degrees in divinity, and the next year compleated that of doctor; about which time he preached the *Concio ad Clerum* with applause. In 1654 he was appointed assistant to the commissioners for ejecting such as were then called scandalous ministers and school-masters *. At the Restoration he quitted the church, but remained at Coventry, where he died October 22, 1689, aged eighty-two, and was buried in the chancel of St. Michael's †.

Anthony Wood says of him ‡, that in the beginning of the civil war he sided with the Presbyterians, took the Covenant, and in 1642 at the desire of the mayor, aldermen, and principal citizens of Coventry, accepted the church of St. Michael's, in which place the soundness of his doctrine (as those of his persuasion have told me), the sanctity and prudence of his conversation, the vigilancy and tendernefs of his care, were of that constant tenor, that he seemed to do all that which St. Gregory wrote a whole book "*de Cura Pastoralis*," to tell us should be done, by which means he ever obtained the love and respect of the city of Coventry, and his ends for their good amongst the citizens thereof. Of his integrity and courage they also further add this instance, in the year 1648, when Oliver Cromwell, the lieutenant general of the forces in England, was at Coventry in

* Dr. Calamy's Continuation of the account of ejected ministers, II. 850.

† Wood, *Ath. Ox.* II. 837, 838. Calamy, *ib.* 736.

‡ *Ath. Ox.* vol. II. p. 636.

his march to London, the said Obadiah Grew took his opportunity to represent to him the wickedness of the design on foot then more visible of taking of the king, and the sad consequences thereof should it take effect, earnestly pressing him to use his endeavours to prevent; it and obtained his promise for it: and afterwards, when the design was too apparent, he wrote a letter to him to the same purpose, and to remind him of his promise, which letter was conveyed by an honest gentleman (since alderman and mayor of Coventry now or lately living) to a messenger then waiting at Whitehall, and by him delivered into Cromwell's own hand.

He published, in 1667, "A sinner's justification by Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ our righteousness, delivered in several sermons on Jeremiah xxiii, 6." 8vo.

And in 1678, "Meditations on our Saviour's Parable of the Prodigal Son, being several sermons of the 15th chapter of St. Luke's Gospel," 4to.

Dr. Nehemiah Grew, the son of Obadiah Grew, D. D. and Ellen his wife, was born at Atherston, and baptized at Manceter September 26, 1641; was bred up by his father in the Puritan way, and sent abroad to compleat his education in one of the foreign universities, where he took the degree of doctor of physic. On his return to England he resided some time at Coventry, but at length resolved to settle in London, where he soon by his merit obtained a large share of practice, which recommended him to the notice of the Royal Society, of which he was elected a member, and, on the death of their secretary Mr. Oldenburgh, succeeded on St. Andrew's day 1677 to that post which he held to his death. In 1672 he was appointed curator to that Society for the anatomy of plants*; and published several curious pieces on that subject. "The Anatomy of Vegetables, 1671;" "Continuation of it 1673;" "An idea of a phyto-

* See Preface to his Anatomy of Plants, p. 5.

logical history propounded, 1673;" "Comparative Anatomy of the trunks of plants, with an account of their vegetation, 1675." These, at the request of the Royal Society, he republished all together, with several others read before them, in one folio volume, intituled, "The Anatomy of Plants, &c." with 83 copper-plates. In Sept. 1680, he was admitted an honorary member of the College of Physicians, and in 1681 published in folio his "Museum Regalis Societatis, or catalogue of the natural and artificial rarities belonging to the Royal Society, and preserved at Gresham college," which he had drawn up pursuant to an order of the council of the 18th of July 1678. It is dedicated to Daniel Colwall, Esq. founder of the Museum, who was at the expence of engraving the plates, and is a catalogue raisonne of the collection with many learned observations. The same year he published his "Comparative Anatomy of the Stomach and Guts."

He also wrote some papers printed in the Philosophical Transactions, N^{os} 92. 141. 142. 159. 194. 202. 330. and printed 1695 a small tract "De salis cathartici amari in aquis Ebeshamensibus, &c. Lond. 1695," 12mo. In 1701 he published his "Cosmologia Sacra, or a discourse of the universe as it is the creature and kingdom of God, chiefly written to demonstrate the truth and excellency of the Bible, which contains the laws of his kingdom in this lower world. In five books," fol. This was universally read, attacked by Mr. Bayle, and defended by Le Clerc in his "Bibliotheque Choisie," tom. 5, in which work, tom. 1, 2, and 3, he had given an abridgement of the "Cosmologia."

Thus Dr. Grew passed his time with the reputation and advantage of a learned author, and an able practitioner in his profession, till his death, which happened suddenly at London on Lady-day 1711, at the age of 70. His works breathe a spirit of sincere piety and goodness, calculated to promote the glory of God and the good of mankind, and to encourage and recommend virtue and true religion,

MANCETER



N. E. View of Hartshill Castle.

MANCETER church, dedicated to *St. Peter*, is situate in the deanry of Arden, and archdeaconry of Coventry, within the bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield. It is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at 10l. 13s. 4d. *per annum*; tenths 1l. 1s. 4d.

Whether the Christian system was ever published to the Roman or British inhabitants of *Manduessedum* is now uncertain. The conversion of the Saxons in these interior parts of the Arden was about the year 656, when Peada the fifth king of the Mercians was baptized, and in the same year Duma appointed the first bishop of Lichfield. Soon after this, churches or oratories, plain perhaps and rude, were erected; and such an one was here about A. D. 930; but whether it was destroyed by fire or by what other means does not appear, most probably by Canute in his destructive march through the Midland parts of England, there being neither church nor priest here; at least the Conqueror's Survey, Doomsday, is totally silent on that head.

In the time of Athelstan, about 930, Leofwine predecessor of Leofric is said to have had the church of Manceter.

Not many years ago the Rev. Arthur Millar making some additional gardens and other improvements to the old manor-house, a very large quantity of human bones were dug up, which tend to prove that a cemetery had been here long before either the present church or manor-house had their existence.

Of the time when the present church was built records are silent. If we may draw any conclusions from the very great resemblance which the walls and buttresses of the South aisle and the chancel bear to the yet remaining walls * of the castellated mansion of Hugh de Hardresnull at Hartshill, which were erected in the reign of Henry I. it is most probable that they were built

* See plate XIV.

about the beginning of the reign of Henry II. and perhaps by Wakeline, to whom the estate was given. The North aisle is certainly of much later date, and yet we have nothing here to direct our searches save the form of the windows, more especially of the Eastern one, the top of which is filled with elegant tracery, which forms together with painted glass were not introduced till about the middle of the reign of Henry III. Sir William Dugdale * informs us, that there were remaining in his time in this window two figures of *Manceter* and *Crophull*; see plate XV. fig. 1, 2. As Crophull was contemporary with Sir Guy de Manceter, who bore his arms with a plain bend, which his son Edmund altered; and as Roger de Cranhull obtained an exchange of Sydlington in the Isle of Ely for this of Manceter with John Hule about that time; is there not the greatest probability that Sir Guy built this aisle in the reign of Edward III. and that Sir John Crophull was a benefactor, and very probably gave this elegant window †?

The first benefactor we find recorded is Walter de Manceter, son of Wakeline, who 1196, 7 Richard I. gave a messuage and three acres of land in Manceter in perpetual alms to God and the church of Manceter, in confirmation whereof the same year he with Henry Chud levied a fine ‡.

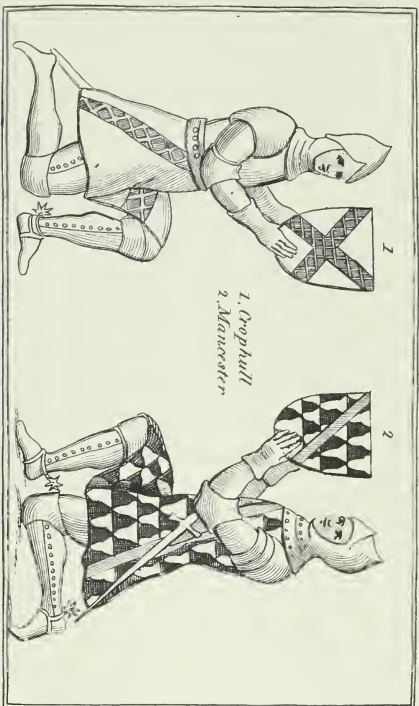
In the reign of Henry II. the monks of Bec in Normandy, to whom Hugh earl of Chester had given the manor of Atherston, gave to the antient chapel in Atherston twelve acres of land, agreeing with the parson of Manceter that he and his successors should cause divine service to be performed there three

* Ed. Thomas, p. 1079.

† Roger de Crophull died rector of Manceter, 1333, 7 Edward III; Sir John Crophull 1383, 6 Richard II.

‡ Fin. levat. 7 Rich. I. inter Walterum de Manceter, Pet. et Henric. Chud, de tribus acris et un. mess. cu. ptinent' in Manceter, quod idem Walterus dedit Deo et eccles' de Manceter in puram et ppetuam elymosinam.

Shroton from Manchester Church p. 98.



Shroton from Shroton Church p. 34.

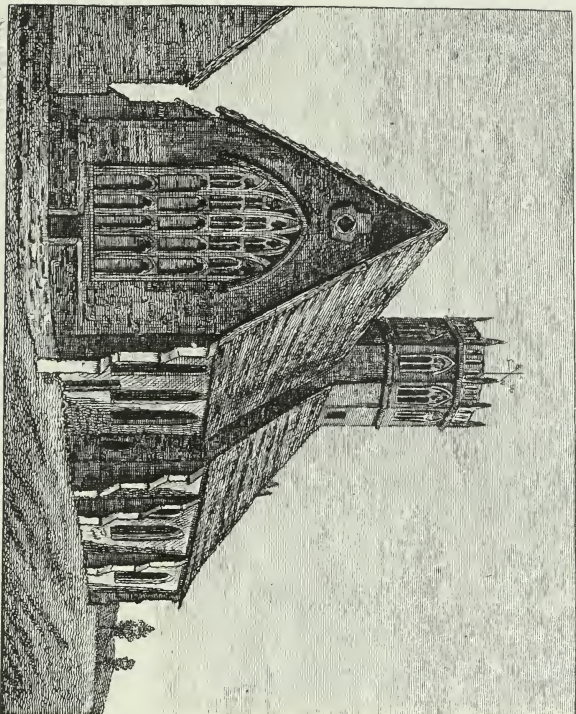
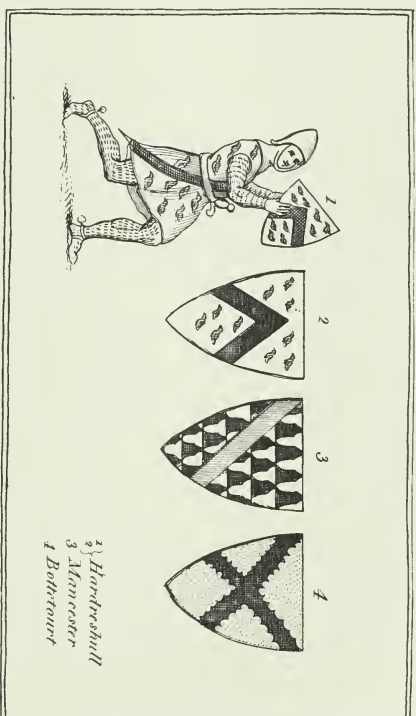


Fig. 1. Shroton Church p. 98.

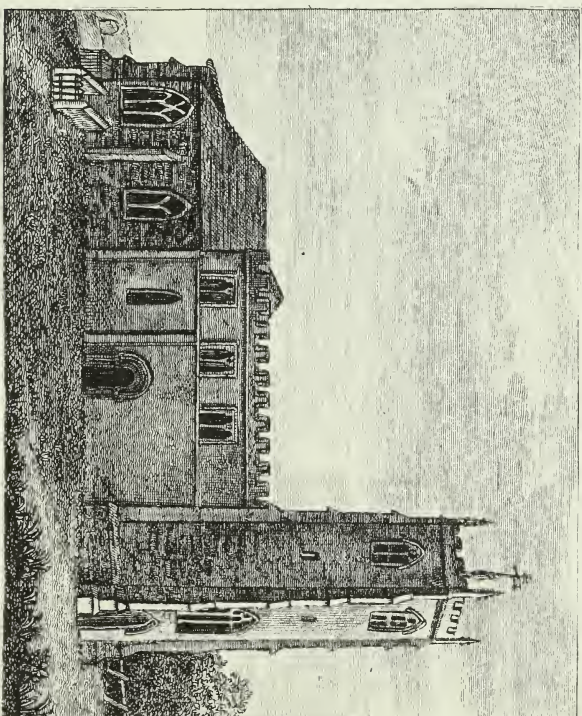
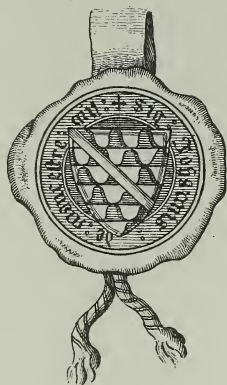


Fig. 2. Shroton Church p. 33.

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Fig. 1. p. 33.



*Sigillum Johannis de
Manestre Militis A. 22
Ed. I. Ex Aspilogia Joh.
Car. Brooke. de Coll. Arm.*

Fig. 4 p. 49.

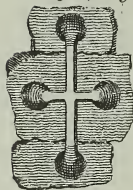


Fig. 3 p. 111.

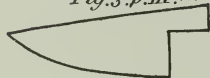
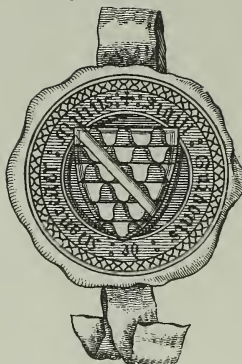


Fig. 2. p. 33.



*Sigillum Guidonis de
Manestre, A. 4 B. III.
Ex Aspilogia Joh. Car. Brooke
de Coll. Arm.*



J. Boulbee del. 1783.

F. Cary sculp.

A South View of Manceter Church.

times a week, Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, holydays, to be accounted, and mafs to be celebrated on St. Peter's day; on these conditions all the tythes and oblations arising out of Atherston should be paid to Manceter, yet burials and baptisms to be performed at Atherston for the inhabitants, except by particular desire. This agreement was ratified by Richard Peche bishop of Coventry and Lichfield *.

15 Edward I. 1287. Sir John de Mancester presented Hugo de Stanford to the church of Manceter, the first incumbent taken notice of.

12 Edward III. 1338. Guido de Mancester with his son Edmund, and Edmund Truffell of Billesley, levied a fine of the advancement of the church at York, on the feast of St. Michael †.

19 Edward I. 1291. The church of Manceter is valued at twenty-two marks, or fourteen pounds fifteen shillings and four pence per annum, in the valuation of livings known by the name of Pope Nicholas's Valor.

49 Edward III. 1375. Lord Bassët founded a house of friars hermits at Atherston, with twelve acres of land, for which they agreed to pay twenty shillings per annum to the parson of Manceter in lieu of tythes; and if they should obtain any more land in that place, to pay tythes in kind for such ‡.

4 Henry IV. May 5, 1403. Thomas Culpeper, son of John by Elizabeth the eldest daughter of Sir John Hardreshull, made an agreement with William Brinklaw, then parson here, to pay

* Richard Peche appointed to the see of Coventry, 1162, 8 Henry II. He died in 1182, 2 Richard I.

† The seals of Sir John and Guy de Manceter, knights, from drawings in the collection of J. C. Brooke, Esq. Somerset herald, are engraved, with the view of Manceter church, in plate XVI.

‡ This agreement was made in the presence of said lord Bassët, the abbot of Leicester, Thomas Harcourt lord of Bosworth, and John Bray the prior, John Combe being their procurator or warden.

him ten pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, being in full for all the tythes due from the woods in Hardreshull at that time; the same, as appears from the agreement, having been for many years withheld.

28 Henry VI. 1449. Thomas Arblaster and Alice his wife, Anne the widow of Thomas Porter, Robert Armbrugh, Reginald Armburgh, Clement Draper, Joan the widow of William Harpur, Ralph Holt, and Elene his wife, sell the church and perpetual advowson, with all other the tythes, emoluments, rights, and privileges thereto belonging, &c. to the abbot and monks of Merevale, who soon after obtained from William Booth, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, the appropriation and endowment thereof, reserving to himself the presentation for that time, there being then a vacancy: the endowment take in the words of the original *:

“ Salva portione congrua vicarii perpetui in eadem, quam autoritate nostra ordinaria taxamus et limitamus ad summam sexdecim marcarum ad quatuor anni terminos; et quod abbas &c. expensis suis propriis intra biennium faciant, ordinent, et edificent unam mansionem sufficient’ pro vicario dicti vicarii et successoribus ejus.”

The convent were to receive all the revenue; and in return to build the vicar a house, and pay him sixteen marks, or ten pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, every year, by four equal portions; also to pay to the bishop of Coventry thirteen shillings and four pence; to the archdeacon of Coventry four shillings and four pence; and to give to the poor of the parish of Manceter three shillings and four pence, the same to be divided by the said vicar within eight days after the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin.

* Reg. Bothe, f. 61. a. See the copy at large, Appendix, N° XIV.

37 Henry VI. the abbot and convent of Merevale founded a chantry at the altar of the Holy Trinity within this church, to celebrate divine service dayly for the soul of king Henry VI. after his departure out of this life, and for the souls of Thomas Slawteley, Alice and Catharine his wives, and all the souls of the faithful deceased. And in the same year, 37 Henry VI. a gild was founded at the instance of John Ruggely, then abbot of Merevale, consisting of divers inhabitants of both sexes of Atherston and Manceter, who met every year upon Trinity Sunday, to chuse two masters for the better rule and government of the society, to which did belong one priest to celebrate divine service at the altar of the Blessed Virgin in this church, for the good estate of king Henry VI. and his queen during this life, and for their souls afterwards, and also for the good estate of all the brethren and sisters of the said fraternity.

The lands belonging to the said chantry lay in Atherston and Whittington; and were, 26 Henry VIII, valued at six pounds seventeen shillings and three pence half-penny per annum, and in the thirty-seventh of the same reign at six pounds ten shillings and seven pence half-penny.

Of this church I meet with nothing further till the general dissolution of the monasteries, save the three last leaves from the convent of the tythes of Hartshill, Oldbury, and Manceter, and the Survey and Computus of the several monasteries in England, from which the following extracts are taken.

The first of these leaves was granted to William Fynderne, March 12, 25 Henry VIII. 10. by the abbot and convent of Merevale, of all their tythe-corn growing in the lordship of Hartshill, to wit, wheat, rye, barley, pease, oats, and all other grain, with all the profits belonging to the same, for the term of his life, at the annual rent of forty shillings.

The second to John Goody, October 18, 28 Henry VIII, 1537, of all the tythe-corn of the lands belonging to two tenements, and two cottages in the manor of Oldbury, that is, of wheat, rye, barley, pease, and oats, growing in the manor of Oldbury, and also of the tythes of wool, lambs, calves, hogs, geese, flax, and hemp, with all their profits.

The third to William Ludford, 30 Henry VIII. 1539, of all the tythe of corn and hay growing in the field called Manceter field, at the annual rent of ten shillings.

30 Henry VIII. 1539, the monastery of Merevale was dissolved*, and the profits and income of this church committed to a receiver, who in his accompts, delivered in 34 Henry VIII, states,

Compotus ministrorum nuper monasterii de Merevale.

Balivus inter alia reddit-comp' ut sequitur.

Et de XL s de firmâ x mar' omnium granorum crescent' infra dominium de Harteshull, viz. frumenti, siliginis, ordeï, pisarû, avenarum, et omnium aliorum granorum, cû omnibus suis proficuis, demiss' Willmo Fyndern 25 H. VIII.

Et de x s de firmâ omnium granor' duorû tenementorû et duor' cottagior' in Oldbury, viz. frumenti, ordeï, pis', et avenar', infra dominium de Oldbury, ac etiam decim' lane, agnellar', vitulor', porcor', aucar', lini et canapi, et omnium aliorû proficuum infra dict' dominium de Oldbury, demiss' Joanni Goody p indenturam dat' 18 Oct. 28 Hen. VIII.

Et de x s de firmâ omnium decimar' garbar' et fæni unius campi vocat' Manceter feld, demiss' Willielmo Ludford p indenturam dñr' nup convent' dat' anno xxx^{mo} H VIII^{vi}.

In 36 Henry VIII. July 8, 1545, a lease was granted to Amias or Amicius Hyll of Atherston, by the title of *Hospitiū D'ni Regis Gen'sum*, or gentleman of the king's household, of all the obventions, oblations, and small tythes whatsoever belonging to the rectory of Manceter, lately the property of the dissolved monastery of Merevale, and of the tythes of hay in the fields of Manceter, on this or the South side of the

* From the Augmentation Office.

river Ankor, and of all the tithes of grain in the fields of Atherston, to be held and enjoyed by the said Amicius or Amias Hyll, and his assigns, for the term of twenty-one years, subject to the annual rent of twenty pounds eleven shillings and four pence, payable half yearly; out of which the king covenants to pay, viz.

Six shillings and eight pence, for bread, wine, wax, and other necessaries for the church.

Six shillings and eight pence to the dean and chapter of Lichfield.

Twelve shillings and four pence to the archdeacon of Coventry, for synodals, procurations, &c.

Ten pounds thirteen shillings and four pence to the vicar of Manceter.

Henry VIII. dying the year after (1546), his successor Edward, the sixth of that name, in his first year, December 1, 1546, granted to Richard Venables and John Maynard, esquires, all the tythes of Oldbury; and in his third year grants to the aforesaid Richard Venables and John Maynard the church, rectory, and advowson, with all and every the rights and emoluments thereto belonging, not included in the aforesaid grant of December 1, 1546; and the next day the said Richard Venables and John Maynard conveyed the same to the lessee Amicius or Amias Hyll.

The following entry remains in the Augmentation Office, dated 4 Edward VI. 1550.

Balivus non r. de xxxl. iiis. iiid. de red' et firm' totius rectorie de Manchester, alias Mancestor, cum div' ter' gleb' tent' et al' prin' eidem rectorie pertin'; eo quod conceditur inter al' Ric'o Venables et Johani Maynard arm', hered' assign' in p'p'm, p' lras regias patent' dat' apud Westm' 21 die Decemb' anno 3^o regis Edwardi VI. tenend' de dominio rege, hered' et successor', in focag' ut de manerio de Este Cranewiche in com' Kane', ab 10, decimar' inde reservat', &c.

- 3 Edward VI. Grant from Edward VI. to Richard
1549, Dec. 21. Venables and John Maynard of the rectory
and church of Manceter ¹.
- 3 Edward VI. Grant of the above rectory, &c. by Ri-
December 22. chard Venables and John Maynard to
Amias Hyll ².
- 4 Edward VI. Grant from Margaret Booth to Robert
1550, May 24. Green, of the tythes of Hartshill and Old-
bury, except those granted by said Mar-
garet Booth, and Richard Venables, to
Amias Hyll ³.
- 4 and 5 Philip and Release from Robert Green to Michael
Mary, 1558, Feb. 6. Parker, and Edmund Parker, of the tythes
in Hartshill ⁴.
- 4 and 5 Philip and Indenture of fine betwixt Michael and
Mary, Easter term. Edmund Parker, petitioners, and Robert
Green and Dorothy his wife, deforcients, of
all manner of corn or sheaves of every sort,
with the appurtenances, &c. in Hartshill ⁴.
- 10 Elizabeth, Grant from Robert Hyll, son of Amias,
1568, June 24. to Michael and Edmund Parker of Har-
shill, in fee, of the tythes of hay, &c. and
the Easter-book, mortuaries, &c. ⁴.
- 10 Elizabeth, Release from said Robert Hyll to Michael
1568, June 30. and Edmund Parker ⁴.
- 16 Elizabeth, Grant from Edmund Parker to his uncle
1574, Feb. 16. Michael of said tythes ⁴.
- 18 Elizabeth, Counterpart of indenture between said
1576, Dec. 28. Michael Parker, and Robert Parker his son,
an intended settlement of marriage, &c. ⁴

¹ Appendix, p. 126.² Ib. p. 125.³ Ib. p. 127.⁴ Ib. p. 128.

31 Elizabeth,

37 Henry VI. the abbot and convent of Merevale founded a chantry at the altar of the Holy Trinity within this church, to celebrate divine service dayly for the soul of king Henry VI. after his departure out of this life, and for the souls of Thomas Slawteley, Alice and Catharine his wives, and all the souls of the faithful deceased. And in the same year, 37 Henry VI. a gild was founded at the instance of John Ruggel, then abbot of Merevale, consisting of divers inhabitants of both sexes of Atherston and Manceter, who met every year upon Trinity Sunday, to chuse two masters for the better rule and government of the society, to which did belong one priest to celebrate divine service at the altar of the Blessed Virgin in this church, for the good estate of king Henry VI. and his queen during this life, and for their souls afterwards, and also for the good estate of all the brethren and sisters of the said fraternity.

The lands belonging to the chantry lay in Atherston and Whittington, and were, 26 Henry VIII, valued at six pounds seven shillings and three pence half-penny per annum, and in the thirty-seventh of the same reign at six pounds ten shillings and seven pence half penny.

Of this church I meet with nothing further till the general dissolution of the monasteries, save the three last leaves from the convent of the tythes of Hartshill, Oldbury, and Manceter, and the Survey and Computus of the several monasteries in England, from which the following extracts are taken.

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The

The second to John Goody, October 18, 28 Henry VIII. 1537, of all the tythe-corn of the lands belonging to two tenements, and two cottages in the manor of Oldbury, that is, of wheat, rye, barley, pease, and oats, growing in the manor of Oldbury, and also of the tythes of wool, lambs, calves, hogs, geese, flax, and hemp, with all their profits.

The third to William Ludford, 30 Henry VIII. 1539, of all the tythe of corn and hay growing in the field called Manceter field, at the annual rent of ten shillings.

30 Henry VIII. 1539, the monastery of Merevale was dissolved *, and the profits and income of this church committed to a receiver, who in his accompts delivered in 34 Henry VIII. states,

Computus ministrorum nuper monasterii de Merevale.

Balivus inter alia reddit comp' ut sequitur.

Et de xl s. de firma x mar' omnium granorum crescend' infra dominium de Harteshull, viz. frumenti, sciliginis, ordeï, pisarũ, avenarum, et omnium aliorum granorum, cũ omnibus suis proficuis, demiss' Willmo Fyndern 25 H. VIII.

Et de x s. de firma omnium granor' duorũ tenementorũ et duor' cottagior' in Oldbury, viz. frumenti, ordeï, pil', et avenar', infra dominium de Oldbury, ac etiam decim' lane, agnellar', vitular', porcor', aucar', lini et canopi, et omnium aliorũ proficuum infra dict' dominium de Oldbury, demiss' Joanni Goody p indenturam dat' 8 Oct. 28 Hen. VIII.

Et de x s. de firma omnium decimar' garbar' et fæni unius campi vocat' Manceter feld, demiss' Willielmo Ludford p indenturam dñt' nup' convent' dat' anno xxx^{mo} H. VIII i.

In 36 Henry VIII. July 8, 1545, a lease was granted to Amias or Amicius Hyll of Atherston, by the title of *Hospitii D'ni Regis Gen'sum*, or gentleman of the king's household, of all the obventions, oblations, and small tythes whatsoever belonging to the rectory of Manceter, lately the property of the dissolved monastery of Merevale, and of the tythes of hay in the fields of Manceter, on this or the South side of the

* From the Augmentation Office.

river Ankor, and of all the tythes of grain in the fields of Atherston, to be held and enjoyed by the said Amicius or Amias Hyll, and his assigns, for the term of twenty-one years, subject to the annual rent of twenty pounds eleven shillings and four pence, payable half yearly, out of which the king covenants to pay, viz.

Six shillings and eight pence for bread, wine, wax, and other necessaries for the church.

Six shillings and eight pence to the dean and chapter of Lichfield.

Twelve shillings and four pence to the archdeacon of Coventry for synodals, procurations, &c.

Ten pounds thirteen shillings and four pence to the vicar of Manceter.

Henry VIII. dying the year after (1546), his successor Edward, the sixth of that name, in his first year, December 1, 1546, granted to Richard Venables and John Maynard, esquires, all the tythes of Oldbury; and in his third year grants to the aforesaid Richard Venables and John Maynard the church, rectory, and advowson, with all and every the rights and emoluments thereto belonging, not included in the aforesaid grant of December 1, 1546; and the next day the said Richard Venables and John Maynard conveyed the same to the lessee Amicius or Amias Hyll. The following entry remains in the Augmentation Office, dated 4 Edward VI. 1550.

Balivus non r. de xxx l. iiii s. iiii d. de red' et firm' totius rectorie de Manchester, alias Mancestor, cum div' ter' gleb' tent' et al' p'tin' eidem rectorie pertin'; eo quod conceditur inter al' Ric'o Venables et Joh'ni Maynard arm', hered' assign' in p'p'm, p' l'ras regias patent' dat' apud Westm' 21 die Decemb' anno 3 regis Edwardi VI. tenend' de domino rege, hered' et success', in focag' ut de manerio de Este Grenewiche in com' Kane', ab se, decimar' inde reservat' &c.

3 Edward VI.
1549, Dec. 21.

Grant from Edward VI. to Richard Venables and John Maynard of the rectory and church of Manceter.

3 Edward VI.
December 22.

Grant of the above rectory, &c. by Richard Venables and John Maynard to Amias Hyll.

4 Edward VI.
1550, May 24.

Grant from Margaret Booth to Robert Green, of the tythes of Hartshill and Oldbury, except those granted by said Margaret Booth, and Richard Venables, to Amias Hyll.

4 and 5 Philip and Mary, 1558, Feb. 6.

Release from Robert Green to Michael Parker, and Edmund Parker, of the tythes in Hartshill.

4 and 5 Philip and Mary, Easter term.

Indenture of fine betwixt Michael and Edmund Parker, Peter and Robert Green, and Dorothy his wife, deforcients, of all manor of corn or sheaves of every sort with the Assumptys &c. in Hartshill.

10 Elizabeth,
1568, June 24.

Grant from Robert Hyll, son of Amias, to Michael and Edmund Parker of Hartshill, in fee of the tythes of money, and the Esther [Easter] book mortuaries &c.

10 Elizabeth,
1568, June 30.

Release from said Robert Hyll to Michael and Edmund Parker.

16 Elizabeth,
1574, Feb. 16.

Grant from Edmund Parker to his uncle Michael of said tythes.

18 Elizabeth,
1576, Dec. 28.

Counterpart of indenture between said Michael Parker, and Robert Parker his son, an intended settlement of marriage, &c.

31 Elizabeth,

31 Elizabeth,
1589, Feb. 20. Indenture between Sir Henry Goodere, Knt. of Polefworth, and Frances his daughter on one part, and William Cook of St. Martin's, Esq. Francis Bacon of Gray's Inn, Esq. and Weston Shaw fervant to William Cook, on the other. In confideration of 300 l. Sir Henry Goodere and Frances his daughter convey to said Francis Bacon and Weston Shaw all the tythes of corn &c. in Hartshill, with all such right as they the said Sir Henry and his daughter have by virtue of an indenture dated July 6, 29 Elizabeth, between William Parker of Hartshill and Katharine his wife, and Sir Henry Goodere and Frances his daughter.

31 Elizabeth,
Hilary Term. Indenture of fine between Sir Henry Goodere and Frances his daughter, petitioners, Robert Parker and Katharine his wife, deforcients, of all the tythes in Hartshill.

31 Elizabeth,
June 13. Affignment from Francis Bacon and Weston Shaw to Mr. Cook of the tythes in Hartshill.

John Maynerd, Margaret Booth, and Richard Venables, purchased the rectory of Manceter by letters patent of king Edward VI. bearing date December 21 in the third year of his reign. Henry Holt, Thomas Perkins, John Swift, Bartholomew Laxton, Nicholas Wolf.

5 Edward VI. February 10, 1550. John Maynard, Esq. of St. Alban's confirms to Amias Hyll the former grant of the rectory and church of Manceter (except the toft belonging to the vicar), the advowson and right of patronage, with all tythes, oblations, obventions, rights, rents, fruits, &c. as the abbot held

P

them,

them, and as purchased by the said John Maynard with Richard Venables deceased; subject to the payment of all pensions, procurations, synodals; viz. ten pounds thirteen shillings and four pence to the vicar, thirteen shillings and ten pence to the archdeacon of Coventry for synodals, and twenty shillings to the bishop of Coventry, and six shillings and eight pence for bread, wine, wax, and oil, to be yearly presented in the said church; and except the tythes &c. of Hartshill, and the tythes of Oldbury.

1 Mary, 1553. Anna Hyll, the relict, daughter, or sister of Amias Hyll, presented to the vicarage. The next year, 2 Philip and Mary, an act was passed to restore to the church all such vicarages as had belonged to any of the religious houses then dissolved; which act in 1 Elizabeth was repealed, and the same vested in the crown, in pursuance of which, on the death of Thomas Smith, Elizabeth presented, as did James on the next vacancy.

We now come to lady Dudley's augmentation of the living, as in Manceter is related, p. 37, and the following entered in the vestry book.

“ A brief taken out of his majesty's letters patents bearing date September 14, an. regn. Jacobi I. 20, to be entered in the vestry or church-book of Manceter in the county of Warwick, and to be solemnly read by the minister of the said parish for the time being to the churchwardens of the same parish, once every year, at the time of their being chosen.

“ His majestie by his letters patents recyteth that the rightly honourable the ladie Alice Dudley, according to the trust to her reposed by Alicia Dudley her daughter, by her last will and by word of mouth to her made known, hath caused the manor

of Manceter being of the yearly value of 120 l. to be conveyed to his majestie, his heirs and successors, to the intent his majestie woud be graciously pleased to reconvey the same to such poor vicaredges and parsonages as the lady shod appoint. And accordingly his majestie by the said letters patents, atte the nomination of the lady, did thereby convey and assure to the vicar of Manceter and his successors for ever, amongst orther parsons and vicars, all that the messuage-house or homestead in Mancetter alias Mancester aforesaid, now or late in the tenure or occupation of John Wilday or his assigns, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and one close, clousure, or parcell of land or ground called or known by the name of Stocking Land, and another close, closure, or parcell of land or ground called Crab-tree close, and one meadow called Stocking Land meadow, now or late in the tenure of John Wilday or his assigns, containing together by estimation six acres and two roods or thereabouts, and also all that field called Boundfield now or late in the tenure of William Parker, his assign or assigns, and all that water mill, millhome and hemp leck, with the appurtenances, containing two acres or thereabouts, now or late in the tenure or occupation of Mark Gulson or his assigns, and one close or piece of ground containing seven acres or thereabouts, now or late in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Lecester, parcell of the said mannor of Mancetter, together with all woods, underwoods, moors, washes, waters, fishings, commons, rent, reversions, services, emoluments, profits, commodities, and hereditaments whatsoever to the same messuage, water-mill, millholme, closes, lands, and premises, so granted or mentioned to be granted to the vicar of the said vicaridge and his successors for ever.

“ And to the intent that the said vicar once every year for ever, that is to say upon the feast day of Pentecost, commonly called Whitsunday, in the forenoon of the same day, the said vicar

and successor for ever in the said church of Manceter aforesaid shall by himself or some other sufficient learned man in that behalf to be provided, make one sermon in the said parish church for a commemoration or remembrance for ever of the said Alice Dudley and Alizia her daughter, and shall give thanks to God for the benefit that the said vicar doth receive by the hands of the said Alice Dudley and the said Alizia, in such sort, and after such manner, as to the said vicar and his successors that shall then preach on the said Whitsonday shall seem fit and convenient.

“ And if it shall happen that the said vicar or his successors shall at any time hereafter neglect and make default to make and perform, or cause to be made or performed, the said commemoration upon the said Whitsonday as is before directed and appointed, that then and in such case the said vicar or his successors, so making default, shall lose and forfeit the sum of ten pounds of current English money for every such default, the said forfeiture to be presently paid by the said vicar so making default to the churchwardens of the said parish, when such default shall happen to be made, to be by the said churchwardens distributed and disposed off according to their good dispositions amongst and between the poor people of the said parish, when such default shall be made or committed contrarie to the meaning of our said letters patents.”

Manceter church was appropriated to the monastery of Merevale in the reign of Henry VI. Edward VI. in his third year granted it to Venables and Maynard*, who the next day regranted the same to Amicius Hill of Atherston, whose widow or daughter Anna Hill 1553, in the reign of Philip and Mary presented; after this queen Elizabeth presented in 1574, and king James in 1622.

* See the grant at length, p. 120.

In 1662 Harrington Drayton presented, whose ancestors either by marriage or purchase enjoyed the said advowson.

In 1670 or thereabouts he gave the Easter books of Manceter, Oldbury, and Atherston, with the tythe herbage of Manceter and Oldbury.

He demised the advowson with the tythes of Atherston to his second son Richard Drayton, whose daughter marrying the father of the late Thomas Clare, grandfather to the present incumbent Thomas Clare, M. A. he was presented by his father.

N. B. The old stipend of ten pounds thirteen shillings and four pence is all that the vicar receives on the old foundation, and this is payable out of the lands which were appropriated by the inclosure act in lieu of the tythes.

The manor of Oldbury contains five hundred and eighty acres, and four farms, and one cottage. To the West is a place called Ridge Lane in which are some houses that do not belong to this manor.

A modus or annual payment of one pound five shillings and ten pence is paid to the vicar of Manceter, in lieu of the tythe agistment given to the church by Harrington Drayton.

Patrons of the church.

Johannes de Mancester, miles.
 Robert de Herle.
 Guido de Mancester, miles.
 Edmund. de Mancester, miles.
 Johannes la Warr.
 Galfridus Brockholes, miles. }
 Peter Prilly et Edw. Worthyn. }
 Gulielmus Heyworth ep. Coventr. p
 Laps.
 Patroni abbas et Cono de Merevale.
 Gulielmus Booth ep. Coventr. pro hac
 vice.

Abbas et Conventus de Merevale.

Anna Hyll de Atherston.
 Dña Elifabetha Regina.
 Jacobus Rex.
 Harrington Drayton, arm. de Atherston.

Mary May widow of N. D.

Richard Drayton.

Thomas Clare, sen.

Incumbents.

Hugo de Stanford, cler. 1287. ¹
 Johannes de Herle, subdiac. 14 cal. April
 1298. ²
 Roger de Crophull pbr. 11 cal. Apr.
 1333 ³, rector of Sudyngton, Ely dioc.
 pmutat cum Joh. Herle.
 Richard de Bulcote ⁴, 15 cal. Ap. 1349 ⁵.
 Richard de Gybbefmore, cap. cal. Aug.
 1369 ⁶. p. m.
 Thomas la Warr. pbr. 13 Mar. 1381 ⁷,
 p. m.
 William Brinklow, pbr. 22 Junii
 1392 ⁸.
 Thomas Heton cler. 10 Nov. 1432. ⁹
 Johannes Mountford alias Barbourn pbr.
 20 Feb. 1449. ¹⁰
 { William Hawton.
 Henry Ward, 16 Apr. 1488. ¹¹
 Robert Rogers.
 Robert Whittington, 21 Aug. 1514. ¹²
 Thomas Willat resigned.
 Robert Barfot, 14 Oct. 1530. ¹³
 Thomas Alrad, 1 June, 1538, p. m. ¹⁴
 Thomas Smith, cler. 9 Nov. 1553. ¹⁵
 Wilfrid Rose, cler. 26 Aug. 1574. ¹⁶
 Ricards Abell, A. M. 31 Julii, 1622. ¹⁷
 Joseph Symcocks, A. B. 10 Jan. 1662. ¹⁸
 p. m. Abel.
 William Bloie, A. M. 6 July, 1663. ¹⁹
 William Underwood, A. M. 16 July,
 1688. ²⁰
 Robert Moss, A. M. 16 July, 1701. ²¹
 Underwood.
 William Thomas, A. M. Jan. 26, 1715. ²²
 Thomas Clare, A. M.

¹ Ex autog. pen. dec. et capit. Lich.

⁴ Balcote. Fin. de div. comit. lev. 15 Hil. 30 E. III.

¹⁶ Northb. f. 50. a.

⁷ Strat. f. 28.

⁸ Sk. f. 8. a.

¹⁰ Bo. f. 10. a.

¹¹ Hales, f. 30. b.

¹² Bl. f. 6. a.

¹⁴ Str. et P. f. 15. b.

¹⁵ Sampf. et B. f. 1. a.

³ Northb. f. 27. b.

⁵ Ib. f. 48. b.

⁹ Heyw. f. 29. a.

¹³ Ib. f. 13. b.

¹⁶ Ib. f. 46. a.

²⁰ Cart. Sol.

¹⁷ Morton bund. incert.

¹⁸ Hack. f. 2.

¹⁹ Ib. f. 36.

²² Mandat. ad Induct.

The church of Manceter consists of a nave or body, a chancel and two ailes tiled, and a low square embattled tower. The nave is now covered with lead, but was originally with stone or thatch, as the remaining marks on the East side of the tower shew. The chancel and South aisle are built of rough stone with windows and buttresses of squared stone. The windows having roundish arched tops, some acute. The North aisle is of squared stone: the windows, especially the Eastern one, have more acute tops, and are as is before mentioned of later date: the painted glass is almost entirely gone. The tower is all of square stone embattled, and has on the Southern front an antique axe cut on a stone about the middle of the tower in the form delineated in plate XVI. fig. 3. the reason of which does not occur. Here is no clock.

In 1776 the church was new seated, painted, and numbered, the ailes paved, and the roof underdrawn, partly by subscription, and partly by an assessment.

On the front of the gallery are three large black tablets inscribed with gold letters to the following purport:

	£.	s.	d.	
1. A brief account of Lady Dudley's charity.				
2. Harrington Drayton's.				
3. Thomas or Richard Whitehall of Oldbury,	10	0	0	per an.
4. Thomas Bracebridge to the chapel at Atherston,	10	0	0	per an.
5. Hugh Glover out of his own tythes of his lands in Manceter,	0	13	0	per an.
6. John Roper out of a house in Atherston for a yearly sermon on Good Friday in Atherston chapel,	0	5	0	per an.
7. John Eginton out of an house in Atherston,	0	2	0	per an.
8. John Farmer; the interest to be added to the vicar's income of	400	0	0	

N. B. An annual sum is charged out of certain closes adjoining Atherston for finding of bell ropes for the largest bells.

In or about 16 , Ifaac Cook then owner of lands in Manceter, charged two closes lying there (which in 1782 were occupied by Cafs) with the perpetual expenfe of finding bell ropes for the three largeft bells, which is punctually obferved. This donation is faid to have been occafioned by the following accident: Ifaac Cook being out one winter evening when the ground was covered with fnow, miffed his way, and wandered fo near the banks of the river as to have been in the greateft danger, when the curfew bell beginning to ring directed him to that village; the next day difcovering the great danger he had been in he immediately made the fettlement.

The wake is kept on the Sunday next after the 8th of September, the nativity of the Bleffed Virgin.

Inscriptions on the Monuments and Gravestones
in MANCETER Church, 1789.

In the North aisle, on the side:

A mural monument of white veined marble, with the arms of *Bracebridge*, Verry
Argent and Vert a fefs charged with a crescent.

In memory of
Abraham Bracebridge, and Mary his wife,
The former of whom died Oct. 11, 1743, aged 65 :
and the latter, Feb. 2, 1745-6, aged 63.

As also of
Walter Bracebridge, son of the said Abraham and Mary,
who died Jan. 3, 1746-7, aged 33 ;
and of

Elizabeth their youngest daughter, who died Aug. 9, 1760, aged 48.

Mary Bracebridge died Feb. 14, 1768, aged 58.

Mary Bracebridge, wife to Abraham, and youngest daughter of
John Stiles of Uxbridge, died Jan. 24, 1776, aged 65 years.

On a mural monument of white marble, arms *Bracebridge* impaling *Church*, viz.
Argent a fefs betwixt three greyhounds heads erased Sable collared Or.

Sacred to the memory
Of Theodosia, sixth daughter of William Church of Tunstal in the county of
Salop, Esq. and late wife of Walter Bracebridge of Atherston, gent.
who, being adorned with the virtues and graces of the Christian life,
crowned them all with exemplary humility and sweetness of temper :
for she had learned to put on that goodly attire in the sight of
God and man of so great price,
the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit
furnished with armour of God.

She passed this vale of tears with that composure and peace of mind
which is the blessing promised to the meek in spirit,
and in that favour both of God and man
which seldom fails to attend the lowly in heart.
She lived beloved, and died lamented,
but especially by her disconsolate husband,
who, as the least token of his unspeakable grief,
caused to be erected this monument of his never dying love.
She died December 20, 1742, aged 25.

A small mural monument of white marble, with the arms of *Bracebridge*, affixed to the East wall of the said North aisle :

Inter sacros hosce parietes
Juxta reconduntur exuviae
Thomæ Bracebridge,
Viri desideratissimi.
Obiit 16 Aug. 1695.
In cujus memoriam
Samuel Bracebridge de
Lindley com. Leicestr.
Hoc posuit.

In the chancel, on the North side :

A marble monument, a half bust placed on two shields, *Hinton*. One partie per fess dancete Or and Sable, six flowers-de-lis counter charged, impaling Argent on a bend Gules betwixt three pellets, as many swans of the first.

The other, *Hinton* impaling Or, two bars Azure in chief a lion of the second.

Juxta heic jacet Edwardus Hinton arm.
Hujus comitatus vicecomes pro an. 1683.
Pacisque conservatorum unus;
Vir justus et fortis, Regi et Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ
(uti pater totaque familia) semper fidelis,
Samuelis Hinton de Lichfield LL. D. per Eliz.
filiam Roberti Chester de Royston in com. Hertf.
Eq. Aur. filiorum trium primogenitus,
Mariæ Johannis Gregory de Styvichal juxta
Coventry arm. filia: Deinde Elizabethæ
Thomæ Clark de Nethercot in com. Warwici
gen. filia nati maximæ, maritus lectissimus,
sine prole defuncto 4^{to} die Januarii 1689.
Samuel frater ejus numerosa sobole beatus
in patrimonium successit. Dicta Elizabetha
vidua mœstissima hoc monumentum, amoris
indelibilis ergo, poni curavit.

Underneath is added :

Near to this lies also the body of Fleetwood Hinton (late of Atherston) gent. who died 24 of February, 1766, aged 63.

And Frances his wife departed March 4, 74, aged 55.

A mural monument in stone :

On the North side of the chancel, within the communion-rails, lie the bodies of Richard and Samuel Drayton, gentlemen, patrons and impropiators of the church. The father departed this life the 25th, and the son the 27th of March, in the year of our Lord 1717.

Lovely

Lovely in life, in death too near ally'd,
 Not death itself their friendship could divide.
 To whose pious memory
 Thomas Clare of Atherston
 the present impropiator,
 Grandson of the said Mr. Richard Drayton,
 did erect this monument,
 September 1736.

On two flat stones on the South side of the communion-table :

To preserve from interruption
 the remains of
 Thomas Clare,
 who was the patron of this church
 and impropiator of the parish,
 this stone records
 that his body lies
 here intombed.
 He was born May 8, 1704;
 and died May 5, 1775.

In the same tomb
 with that of her husband
 is deposited
 the body of Mary the wife
 of Thomas Clare,
 who was
 the eldest surviving daughter
 of Thomas Muxloe, Esq.
 of Swepton in the county of Leicester.
 She was born July 27, 1712,
 and died February 21,
 1776.

In the North West corner, within the rails :

Memoriæ Sacrum
 Optimi conjugis Haringtonis Drayton, Gen.
 Hujusce ecclesiæ patroni, hoc monumentum, M. D.
 non sine lacrymis fieri fecit.
 Filios duos Haringtonum et Richardū,
 4que filias, Barbarā, Mariā, Annā et
 Catharinā, habuerunt, et vitæ caducæ
 fortem cum cœlestis regni perennitate
 commutavit

Anno ætatis suæ 68, et Salutis nostræ

1671.

Qui legis in propriam disce *de par* * urna
Mature cineres. Qui sapit ille sapit.

Without the rails, on the North side :

To the memory of
Edward Farmer, Gent.
who died 13 March, 1766,
aged 62.

And in the same grave is interred
Dorothy
his wife,
who died the 17th of December, 1731,
aged 38.

Here lyeth the body of
Capt. Edward Reynolds, late of
Atherston in the county of Warwick, Esq.
who departed this life the twenty-fourth day of May,
aged 50 years, and in the year of our Lord
1737.

On the South side :

Captain James Adams,
dyed the 9th day of August,
1729.

Mrs. Elizabeth Burges,
fifter to the said captain
dyed August 24, 1735.

There is also an old alabaſter grave ſtone with the inſcription cut round the verge, but ſo worn as not to be legible, and another blue ſtone, but nearly covered with the South Weſt corner of the rails.

A mural marble monument in the South Weſt corner :

In hopes of a joyful reſurrection to the life immortal,
Beneath this monument lyes inter'd the body
of Mrs. Elizabeth Simmonds, late wife of
Thomas Simmonds of Merevale abbey
in this county, Gent.
She departed this life in the true faith and
fear of Almighty God, on Feb. 14, 1744.
aged 44 years, 2 months, and 28 days.

* The original is here not legible.

“ Since

- ' Since every one who lives is born to dye,
 ' And none can boast sincere felicity,
 ' With equal mind what happens let us bear,
 ' Nor grieve too much for things beyond our care,
 ' Like pilgrims to the appointed place we tend,
 ' The world's an inn and death the journey's end.
 Vivit post funera virtus.

On a marble tablet underneath :

 Thomas Simmonds, Gent.
 died the 5th of November 1747, aged 46 years.

Flat stones in the nave, returning from the chancel :

 Edwardus Hinton Ar. obiit 4 Januar.
 A. Dom. 1689, A^o ætat suæ 60.

Hic jacent exuviæ Francisci Gramer, nuper de Athirston in com. Warwic. gen.

Francisci Gramer de Killingworth in agro predicto gen. filius :

Tres duxit uxores ; e duabus posterioribus septem reliquit liberos,
 quorum Franciscus (ultimæ uxoris filius unicus) cum tribus secundæ filiabus

hoc monumentum fieri curavit.

Obiit die Martis vicesimo sexto,

anno ætatis sexagesimo tertio,

annoque Dom. 1699.

Serius aut citius metam properamus ad unam.

Here lyeth the remains of Francis Burges, Gent.

He departed this life June 30, 1773,
 in the 70th year of his age.

Here lies interred the body of

Mr. Mathew Abell of Atherstone,

who departed this life 18 of January,

in the year of our Lord 1730, aged 55 years.

Here lies interred the body of

Mr. Mathew Abell, jun. of London,

Citizen and Refiner.

Who departed this life the 16 of October, in the
 year of our Lord 1734, aged 28 years.

Beneath

Beneath this stone in a vault lyeth the
body of Rhoda Abell, the reliēt of
Mathew Abell of Atherstone,
who departed this life the 20th of January 1742-3,
aged 68.

In memory of
Dorothy the wife of John Holland,
who died August the 6th, 1778, aged 24 years.

Dr. Thomas, in his edition of Dugdale's Warwickshire, says,
In the North aisle are the portraitures * of a man and woman in brafs, and
underneath,

Robert Reginald of Adurston, and Jone his wife, the xii day of August the
dyde and layde here in grave the year of our Lorde A. MCCCCXX and five, Jhu
for thy marcy ther fowlys now save.

On a flat stone :

Here lyeth the body of Abraham Bracebridge, of Atherstone; deceased the 18 of
October 1694, in the 52d year of his age.

* These are not now remaining.

ADDITIONAL EPITAPHS, 1791.

In the nave :

“ Within this vault are deposited the remains
of Charles Hewitt, Gent. who died
December 19th, 1788, aged 36.”

In the middle aisle, on flat stones :

“ Within this vault is deposited the body of
Mary, the wife of William Freer of Atherstone.
She departed this life June the 20th, 1779, aged 43 years.

“ Within this vault are deposited the remains of
Sufannah, the wife of John Willday, of Atherstone,
who departed this life Nov. the 25th, 1785, in the 39th year of her age.”

In the South aisle :

“ Mary Smith died August the 12th, 1781, aged 52.
Also of Nicholas Smith, who died March 2d, 1786, aged 67.”

“ Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Kennedy,
wife of George Kennedy of Birmingham,
who departed this life November the 17th, 1780, aged 24.

Also two of their children, Mary and Ann, who died in their infancy.

Also Mary Chapman, wife of William Chapman of Atherstone,
who departed this life October the 4th, 1783, aged 55.”

“ To the memory of Sarah Soden,
who departed this life September 15th, 1759, aged 51 years.”

An atchievement in the chancel, South side, of the family of the Barnards.

Another in the South aisle, over Mr. Okeover's pew.

In the front of the Singers gallery, at the West end of the church.

A list of the Benefactors to the Church and to the Chapel in Atherstone, with
an account of their benefactions.

The right honourable and most virtuous lady Alice dutches Dudley gave 24
pounds a year for ever. Moreover she bestowed on this church diverse pieces of
rich and costly plate, to be used at the celebration of the holy communion.

Mr. William Whitehall, of Oldbury, gave 10 l. a year for ever.

Mr. Harrington Drayton, patron, and Mrs. Mary Drayton his wife, gave the
Easter book of Atherstone, and the Easter book and herbage of Manchester and
Oldbury, to this church.

Mr. Samuel Bracebridge gave 10 l. a year for ever to the chapel in Atherstone.

Mr. Hugh Glover gave 13 s. 4 d. a year, to be paid out of his tythe in Manceter to this church for ever.

John Roper gave 5 s. a year, for a sermon to be preached at the chapel in Atherstone upon Good Friday.

John Eggington gave 2 s. a year, to be paid out of the rent of his house in Atherstone for ever.

John Farmer, Esq. of Oldbury, gave 400 l. to be laid out upon lands for the augmentation of this vicarage.

The Righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

On the right hand, going out of the porch, is an ancient tomb of the *Whitehalls*, with this inscription :

“ Here resteth underneath,
expecting a joyful resur-
rection, the bodyes of Richard
Whitehall, late of *Ouldbury*,
Gent. and Joane his wife, who
lovingly and piously lived in
wedlock 61 years.
He died day of March,
She died October *.

In the porch on the West side :

“ M. S.

G. Thomas Reverendi dignissimique H.
Thomas, A. M. Ecclesiæ de Kirkby Mal-
lory, in com. Leic. nuper Rectoris, cancelloriũ
Ejusdem conditorio sepulti, relictae,
Filia Joh. Stafford de Huncote in com. præd.
Armig. ac per vicennium Pacis Conservatoris, illustri
genere de Blatherwick in agro Northampt.
prognati ; & Eleanoræ uxoris ejus, Verney Noel
de Kirkby Baronetti fororis, Will. Noel de
Wellborough Armigeri filiæque. Ob. vicesimo
neno Dec. A. D. 1729; æt. 84.

Quid prodest longo sanguine censerì — Majorum ?”

* This inscription being upon a sand-stone, the other part of it is obliterated : but from the register of the parish it appears that,

“ Mr. Richard Whitehall, of *Oldberrie*, was buried March 18, 1639.

“ Mrs. Joanne Whitehall was buried the 10th day of October, 1640.”
Oldbury is spelt as above in the inscription and register.

On the East side:

“ Hic infra fixæ sunt exuvix
 Rev. Will. Thomas A. M.
 Per tricennium et ultra hujus Ecclesiæ Vicarii:
 Qui obiit die Sept. 1^o, anno Dom. 1749, æt. suæ 61.
 Sit Christus Judex Deus misericors.
 Vixi quantum satis est,
 Resurrectionem beatam plenus expecto.”

On the outside of the porch, in a small square:

“ Here do rest the bodies of John Blife and Margery his wife, 1633.
 She went the first; then he Death's path did treadd,
 To sleepe with her among the living dead.”

Inscriptions in the church-yard.

1. On the North side of a square tomb-stone in the middle of the church-yard:

“ Here lyeth entomb'd the body of Mr. Richard
 Warwick, Merchant Taylor, sometime Citizen of
 London, who departed this life in the year 1633,
 Who, out of his great affection to his native
 Town, Atherstone, gave a charitable gift of
 Fifteen pounds per annum for ever to buy Gray Coats and
 Hatts for so many honest poor Housekeepers of the said
 Town, as 'twill purchase yearly, at y^e discretion of the Trustees.”

On the South side:

“ This tomb was new-erected by us,
 John Burton, Thomas Freer, John Reynolds,
 Joseph Steel, Thomas Fortescue, and
 Robert Burton, Trustees,
 in the year 1738.”

2. On the family tomb of the Simmons's in the church-yard:

Arms: Per fess, Sable and Arg. a pale counterchanged; three trefoils slipped of the second, within a bordure counterchanged.—Crest, On a mount Vert, an Ermine proper, holding in his mouth a pansy proper.

“ Here lieth intombed the body of Mr. William Simmons, of Atherstone, Mercer, who departed this life the 25th of January, 1685, aged 75. And also the body of Eleanor his wife, who departed this life the 19th day of January 1686, aged 88, and lived in wedlock 50 years, and had issue 5 children, viz. Joshua, Hannah, Esther, Nehemiah, and Lydia. Whereof Hannah died November the 5th, 1646, aged 6 years. Esther died December the 27th, 1640. aged 6 years. Nehemiah died January the 6th, 1648, aged 3 years. Lydia died May the 5th, 1668, aged 19 years.”

On one side of this tomb :

" This tombe was erected by Mr. Joshua Symmonds in the year of our Lord 1696."

On the other side :

" This tomb repaired by us Mr. George Freer, Mr. John Moor, churchwardens, in the year of our Lord 1749."

3. On the family tomb of the Okeovers, in the church-yard :

" Here lyeth the body of Rowland Okeover, Esq.
who died the 11th day of February 1761, aged 64.

And also his first wife, Mrs. Patience Okeover,
who died the 25th day of July 1741, aged 26.

Also the body of Leek Farmer Okeover,
who died the 18th day of June 1741, aged 5 years.

Also the body of Patience Okeover, who died in March 1740, aged 1 month.

Also master Thomas Okeover, son of Mrs. Alice Okeover,
who died the 2d day of January 1747, aged 1 year.

Charles Franklin, Esq. died the 2d day of January 1768, aged 72."

4. On another tomb in the church-yard :

" To the pious memory of the Rev. John Pluthoro. He was born in Cardiff, December the 19th, 1715; died at Atherstone August the 8th, 1772.

Also Mary, his wife, was born in Sheepy Parva, May the 13th, 1728; died at Atherstone, April the 14th, 1784.

So sleep, the Saints and cease to groan,
When Sin and Death have done their worst;
Christ hath a glory like his own,
Which waits to clothe the waking dust."

5. On a square tomb-stone near the alms-houses :

" Here lyeth the body of Mr. John Loveday,
who departed this life the 25 day of February 1693, aged 43 years.

Also the body of Mrs. Ann Loveday, relict of John Loveday,
who departed this life April the 22, 1725, in the 70th year of her age.

And also the body of James Gramer, Esq.
He departed this life the 13 day of Dec. 1726, in the 59 year of his age."

On the centre of the alms-houses, on the West side of the church-yard:

“ These alms-houses, with
an endowment of
two thousand pounds, was
the sole gift of
James Gramer, Esq.
late Citizen and Goldsmith
of London,
and native of this place.
Built Ann. Dom. 1728;
and likewise gave ten
pounds a year to the poor
of Atherstone for ever.”

6. “ Hic jacet corpus Thomæ Hodgkinson, Gen.
filius Joannis Hodgkinson & Mariæ uxoris ejus,
Qui obiit die anno 1719 *,
Ætatis suæ 25.

Here lieth the body of John Hodgkinson, Gent.
who died the 10th day of July, 1707, aged 41.

And also the body of Mary,
only daughter of the said John,
who died the seventh day of October,
1749, aged 58.”

7. “ Hic jacent
Mariæ Goddard reliquiæ,
olim Johannis Hodgkinson,
nuper Ricardi Goddard uxoris,
Ætatis suæ 44°.
Januarii xv die, et Christi anno MDCCXVII.”

8. “ Hic
jacent Gulielmus Blore,
hujus parochiæ vicar^s, et
Martha ejus tori consors.
Ille, annos circiter 50 natus,
Obiit
Martii 10°, 1688-9;
hæc in anno 60, Julii 9°,
fato cepit,
1707.”

* Register, “ Thomas Hodgkinson buried June 14, 1719.”

9. "Here lieth the body of Richard Martin,
who died the 19th day of February, 1664,
aged 44.

He gave the causeway closes in Mancetter,
for buying coats and hats, yearly, for poor men
of Atherstone, Manceter, and Hartshill."

30. "Hic juxta requiescunt cineres Georgii Clare, filii Will. Clare de Newton
Burgoland, in agro Leic. gen. viri exoptabilis; & Catharinæ conjugis unicæ, cum
tribus filiis, prænomine Catharina, Unst, & Francesca.

Ille obiit 11 Dec. 1707, ætatis 57;

Illa 7 Decemb. 1708, ætat. 54.

In cujus memoriam filiæ mœstissimæ Abigal & Maria Clare
Hoc monumentum pietatis posuerunt."

P. 113. l. 2. for "1789," r. "1779."

Ib. l. 6. for "Vert," r. "Vaire, Argent and Sable, a fess Gules."

Ib. l. 9. for "63," r. "66."

P. 114. l. 14. for "counter charged," r. "counter-changed."

P. 116. read l. 3, 4, thus:

"Qui legis in propriam discede paratior urnam:

"Maturè cineres qui sapit, ille sapit."

P. 117. After Burges's epitaph, l. 25, add,

"And also of Elizabeth his wife, who departed this life January the 19th, 1786,
aged 62.

"Also of Joseph their youngest son, who died an infant.

"Also of James Burges, who departed this life January the 11th, 1789, aged 32."

Extract of a deed penes J. Ludford Ansley, dated 8 Elizabeth

P. 68. Sir Anthony Cook of Giddie hall, Essex, grants for the term of 21 years to Mayhell or Michael and Edmund Parker, a lease of the manor-house of Hardihill, the garden, orchard, the little yard, the great yard, the hall orchard, and the pasture called South Hay, the hall croft 32 acres, the two launds 42 acres, Hartshill park 142 acres, the Freesh meadow 4 acres 3 roods, the Inge 10 acres and a half, the long meadow 6 acres, Peter's or Piggot's holme 2 roods, and a parcell of land in the Nether field 12 acres. The rent forty pounds per annum, with common right, but not more than 20 acres to be let off without consent.

25 Elizabeth, February 6, 15. Anthony Cook, Esq. son of Richard, and grandson of Sir Anthony, grants leave to the abovesaid Edmund Parker, to resign and convey the remainder of his term to Thomas Forster, brother in law to the said Anthony.

P. 99. A. D. 1291, 19 Edw. I. This king having embarked in the Crusade, and obtained from pope Nicholas V. power to levy a tenth of the ecclesiastical revenues, a new valuation was made by the bishops of Lincoln and Winchester, intituled,

Registrum Dñi Pape de Taxacōne Sp̄ualitat' et Temporal' Anglie et Wallie.

Taxatio ecclesiasticor' benefic' dioc' Coventr' et Lich' Sp̄ual'.

Archidiaconatus Coventr', decanatus de Ardena.

Ecclesia de Mancestre val' 22 marc'.

—— de Ansley val' 6 marc'.

From the chest in the office of the King's Remembrancer in the Exchequer. N^o 29.

Mancester Ecclesia valet xxii marcas.

Decimæ duo marcæ, duo solidi, et octo denarii.

Ansley, appropriata abbatissæ de Polesworth valet sex marcæ.

Decimæ, octo solidi.

County of Warwick. Harteshill.

31 Henry VIII. In a particular for a grant of divers premises to lord Ferrers, mention is made of a pasture in Harteshull within the parish of Mancetter, called Parsons Medowe, demised under the rent of 6 s. and of a toft with two crofts there demised under the rent of 13 s. 4 d.

34 Henry VIII. Comp̄tus ministror' nup monastii de Meryvale. Ballivus (int' at) reddit' comp̄m ut sequit'.

Et de x s. de firma omnium decimarum, garbarum, et feni unius campi vocat' Mancett' Feld, dimiss' Willmo Ludford p indent' dñi nup convent'. Dat' anno xxx Hen. VIII. (P. 102.)

Et de XL s. de firma decimarum omniū granorum crescent' in dominio de Harte-shull, viz. frumenti, filiginis, ordeī, pisarum, avenarum, et omnium aliorum granorum, cum omnib' suis proficuis, dimiss' Willmo Fynderne, 25 Hen. VIII. (P. 101.)

Et de X s. de firma omniū decimarum granorum duorum tenement' et duor' cota-giorum in Oldebury, viz. frumenti, ordeī, pis', et avenar', infra dominium de Olde-bury, ac etiam decim' lane, agnellarum, vitul', porcell', aucarum, lini, et canapi, et omnium al' profic' infra dict' dñium, dimiss' Johani Goody p indentur' dat' 18^o Octobr' 28 Hen. VI. (P. 102.)

4 Edw. VI. Merevale nuper monaster' in com' Warr'.

Ballivus non r' de xxxj l. iij s. iij d. de redd' et firm' totius rectorie de Man-chestor' al' Mancestr' cū diſf' terr' gleb' tent' et al' ptin' eidem fcorie ptin', eo qd conceditur interal' Riço Venables et Johani Maynard ar' hered' et assign' f' impm p tras regis paten' dat' apud Westm' 21 die Decembr' anno 3 regis Edwardi VI. Tenendum de dicto domino rege hered' et success' f' in socag' ut de mañio de Este Grenewiche in com' Kanc', absq' X inde reservat', &c.

See this not so corectly printed, p. 103.

P. 100. Appropriatio cum Dotatione Ecclesiæ parochial' de Mancester vel Man-ceter monasterio de Mirevalle, 28 Hen. VI. 1449.

In Registro apud Lichfield. Sampson, B. f. 1. a. lb. f. 46. a.

Universis sanctæ nostris ecclesiæ filiis ad quos presentes litteræ pvenerint Wil-lielmus pmissione divina Coventrienf' et Litchf' episcopus salutem, gratiam, et bene-dictionem, ac fidem indubiam presentibus adhiberi. Ex parte venerabilium et reli-giosorum virorum abbatis et conventus monasterii beatæ Mariæ de Miravalle ordinis Cisterciens' nostræ dioceseos nobis fuit humiliter supplicatum; ut cum Thomas Arblaster, senior, arm', et Alicia uxor ejus, Anna nuper uxor Thome Porter arm', Reginaldus Armburgh Clemens Draper, Johanna quæ fuit uxor Willielmi Harper, Radulphus Holt et Helena uxor ejus, in honorem Æterni Regis, laudem et gratiam beatæ Mariæ Virginis, in quorum honorem fundatur monasterium prædic-tum, ac religiosi ac divini cultus augmentum ppetuis futuris temporibus in eodem monasterio habendovadocationem ecclesiæ parochialis de Manceter, cum suis juri-bus et pertinentiis unroris, in qua plenum jus habuerunt, patronatus eisdem abbati et conventui et eorum monasterio dederint et concesserint, ad effectum quod dicta ec-clesia eis et eorum monasterio predicto canonice possit uniri, annecti, incorporari, ac rite ac legitime appropriari, quoq' fructus, redditus, et proventus eidem monas-terio in iidem perpetua fundatione et dotatione dati et concessi per terrarum steri-litatem, aquarum inundationes, colonorum raritatem, servitium paucitatem, et im-moderata et exesiva eorum stipendia et alios casus fortuitos in tantum decreverint ut in efficacia sint et dimi hospitalitate ad dict' monasterium confluentium ita gravati existant ad sustentationem eorund' abbatis et conventus modernorum et futurorum, ac hospitali-tatem tenendi more antiquo, dictiq' monast' conservationem et supportacionem onerum plus solito dicti monasterii minime sufficiant hiis diebus, quatenus predictam eccle-siam parochialem de Mancester eis et eorum predicto monasterio pro perpetuo ca-nonice unire, annectare, appropriare, et incorporare dignemur. Unde nos Wil-lielmus

lielmus antedictus, servatis primitiis in hac parte servandis, in domo habitationis Laurentii Bothe canonici ecclesiæ Catholicæ Sancti Pauli Londoni ac residentiarii in eadem ad hoc sufficienter dictam ecclesiam de Mancester cum suis juribus et pertinentiis universis nostra ordinaria prefatis abbati et conventui et eorum successorum ac monasterio eorum predict' unimus, anneximus, ac in ipsorum proprios usus perpetuo possidend' concessimus, et nostram sententiam sive decretum nostrum in hac parte tulimus et promulgavimus in hunc modum.

In Dei Nomine Amen. Auditis plenius et intellectis ac plenarie discussis per nos Willielmum miseratione divina Coventr' et Lich' episcopum meritis et circumstantiis negotii appropriationis ecclesiæ parochialis de Mancester dict' nostr' dioecios, vocatis in hac parte venerabili viro Rogero Wall archidiacon' nostro Coventriensi infra cujus archiadeconar' ambitum dicta ecclesia situatur, et aliis omnibus et singulis quorum interest seu interesse poterit in hac parte, testibusque et aliis generibus p' partem religiosorum virorum abbatis et conventus monast' de Merevall' nostr' diocef' antedict' in hujusmodi negotio pro dict' et exhibet', ac p' dict' testibus rite et legitime admissis, examinatis, eorumque attestacionibus publicatis informacione, sufficienti et legitima in hac parte prehabita et recepta, quia per probacion' et informacion' hujusmodi comperimus et invenimus evidenter suggesta nobis in hac parte pro parte prefatorum abbatis et conventus fuisse et vera parte eorund' abbatis et conventus coram nobis sufficienter et legitime competente et sententiam sive decretum per nos in dicto negotio ferri petente causas et suggesta . . . vera et justa fuisse et eccles' decernimus, declaramus, ac ad honorem omnipotentis Dei beatissimæque Virginis Mariæ matris Christi nomine primitus invocato ac solum Deum oculis nostris præponentes, de voluntate et consensu capitulor' ecclesiarum nostrar' cathedr' Coventr' et Lichfield, et dicti Rogeri Wall archidiacon' nostr' Coventr' predict' cum quibus de et super premissis tractatum habuimus diligenter, et solempni licentia excellentissimi in Christo principis Henrici Dei gratia regis Anglie et Franciæ et Dom' Hiberniæ, ac voluntate et consensu omnium quorum interest in hac parte intervenientibus, et prehabitis juribus, ordine, et ceteris in hac parte requisitis in omnibus observatis prefatam ecclesiam parochialem de Mancester cum suis juribus et pertinentiis universis abbati et conventui monasterii predicti et eorum successoribus, dictoque monasterio auctoritate nostra ordinaria et dioecesana, unimus, anectimus, incorporamus, et appropriamus, ipsamque ecclesiam cum suis juribus et pertinentiis universis dicti monasterii abbati et conventui modernis et eorum successoribus in ipsorum proprios usus perpetuo possidend' concedimus, eisdemque abbati et conventui quod liceat eis per se vel eorum procuratorem legitimum dictam ecclesiam parochialem de Mancester jam vacantem et ejus possessionem ingredi, apprehendere, et nancisci, ac etiam libere et legitime retinere et continuare fructus, redditus, et proventus ejusdem ecclesie parochialis, salva portione congrua vicarii perpetui in eadem quam auctoritate nostra ordinaria taxamus, assignamus, et limitamus ad summam sexdecim marcarum ad quatuor anni terminos viz. festa Pasche, nativitatis Scti Johannis Baptisti, Scti Michaelis Archangeli, et Natalis Domini, p' equales portiones fideliter persolvendas, cujus quidem vicarie ecclesie parochialis de Mancester predictæ sic per nos dotate primam collocationem nobis hac

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vice tantum specialiter reservamus, ac deinde in perpetuum ad presentationem prefatorum abbatis et conventus legitime instituend' licite recipere seu percipere, et habere ac libere disponere de iisdem licentia nostra seu alterius cujuscunque ad hoc aliter s'ra petita vel obtenta. Volumus tamen ac ordinamus ac decernimus per presentes quod abbas et conventus monasterii predicti expensis suis propriis infra biennium faciant, ordinent, et edificent, seu ordinari et edificari faciant unam mansionem competentem, congruam, et sufficientem pro vicario dicti vicarii et ejus successoribus quibuscunque et dictam mansionem sic factam et ordinatam dicto vicario et ejus successoribus assignabunt et liberabunt. Et quia ex predicta unione et appropriatione nobis et successoribus nostris Coventr' et Lichf' episcopis ac archidiaconis nostris Coventrien' predict' multa et varia incommoda possunt pervenire, in futurum volumus, statuimus, et decernimus, quod in debitam recompensationem dampnorum et incommodi hujusmodi abbas et conventus monasterii predicti pro tempore existen' dict' eccles' prefatarum ecclesiarum cathedral' Coventr' et Lichf' episcopo cuicunque tresdecim solidos quatuor denarios, et archidiacono Coventr' quatuor solidos quatuor denarios de fructibus dicte ecclesie de Mancester in festo S'ti Michaelis archangeli singulis futuris annis in perpetuum solvere teneantur. Quas quidem pensiones ratione indemnitate predictae termino predicto ut promittitur solvendo p sequestrationem fructuum dicte ecclesie et per quascunque censuras ecclesiasticas exigere volumus et teneri, dictique monasterii abbatem et conventum pro tempore existentes ad solutionem summarum ratione indemnitate predicti compelli et coartari decernimus et declaramus; volumus etiam, ac dictis abbati et conventus imponimus, quod abbas et conventus dicti monasterii pro tempore existentes in futurum de fructibus et proventibus dicte ecclesie parochialis de Mancester sic eis appropriati inter pauperes parochianos ejusdem ecclesie magis indigentes in sustentationem vite earum tres solidos quatuor denarios infra octo dies post festum annunciationis beate Marie singulis annis in perpetuum juxta discretionem et arbitrium vicarii ecclesie parochialis antedicte ac bonorum custodum ejusdem distribui et persolvi faciant cum effectu, premissaque omnia et singula modo et forma premissorum recitata prenuntiamus, decrevimus, et diffinimus perpetuis futuris temporibus inviolabile observari.

From the Survey of the Religious Houses made 26. Henry VIII. 1535.

From the Roll in the First Fruits Office.

The abby of Mirevalle had inter alia the vicaridge of Mancester vel Manceter.

Et de 34 l. 13 s. 4 d. de ferm. decimæ garbar. et feni ecclesie parochial. de Manceter per an.

Et de 6 l. 2 s. reddit' assise de Athereston vel Addereston.

Et de 8 l. 1 s. reddit' assise in Manceter com. War'.

Et allocatur eidem monasterio pro redditu resoluti priori et convent' ordin' Carthusiorum de Mountgrace pro terris in Addereston per an. 11 l. 6 s.

Et allocatur eidem pro pensione annuatim vicario de Manceter pro fallario suo per an. 10 l. 13 s. 4 d.

Et allocatur eidem pro pensione annuat' solut' episcopo Conventriensi. et Lichfield' exeunte de ecclesia parochial per an. 1 l.

Decano et capitul. ejusd' ecclesiæ, 6 s. 8 d.

Archidiacono ejusd' ecclesiæ tam pro pension. ex eadem quam pro procurationibus et synodal' per an. 12 s. 4 d.

Et allocatur eidem pro vadiis Willi Green balivi de Manceter, Addereston, et Baxterley, 1 l. 6 s. 8 d.

Ecclesia parochial' de Manceter: Dñs Radulphus Barefoot vicarius ppetuus ibidem.

Appropriatur abbati et conventui monasterii de Miravalle, et valet in denariis numeratis sibi annuatim solutis p manus predict' abbat', 10 l. 13 s. 4 d.

Cantaria fundat' in ecclesia parochial' de Manceter dom' Thomas Adams custos predict' cantarie, et valet in terris et tenementis per an. ultra, 14 s. 5 d. pro redditu resoluto et ultra xx s. datos in elymosina pro anima fundatoris, 6 l. 7 s. 3 d.

Gilda Sctæ Mariæ de Manceter dñs Robertus Barefoot stypendiarius ejusd' gildæ ex fund' fundatoris solut' p manus magistri gildæ ibidem in denariis numeratis per an. et habet ppetuitat', 6 l.

In 1555, Thomas Hughes the last incumbent of the chantry enjoyed an annuity of 5 l. per annum.

The abby of Polesworth had the cell at Oldbury.

Et de 6 l. 10 d. in Oldbury de redditu terrarum et tenementorum.

Rentale omnium severalium tenementorum et aliorum possessionum dict' Gildæ Scti Mariæ apud Manceter fundat' an. R. H. VI. 37mo in Atherstone baliat. Johannis Westwood eccles' de Manceter.

Per firmam unius tenementi cum horreis &c. in Atherston in tenura	s.	d.
Johannis Hutchinson,	23	4
Per firmam unius tenementi in tenura Rob. Hinck,	6	8
Per firmam in tenura Tho. Hawes,	13	4
Per firmam in tenura Roberti Drayton,	10	0
Per firmam in tenura Margarette Green,	10	6
Per firmam in tenura Johan. Abell,	22	8
Per firmam in tenura Johan. Walker,	14	0
Per firmam in tenura Hall,	16	0
Per firmam in tenura Hall,	6	8
Per firmam in tenura Willielmi Pratts,	6	8
Per firmam in tenura Willielmi Perkins,	4	0
Per firmam in tenura Henrici Hart,	5	0
Per firmam in tenura Willielmi Draper,	5	0
Per firmam in tenura Henrici Piper,	4	0
Per firmam in tenura Ricardi Brown,	4	0
Per firmam in tenura Johan. Chapman,	10	0
Per firmam in tenura Gregorii Lawson,	6	8
Per firmam in tenura ejusdem Gregorii,	1	4
Per firmam in tenura Henrici Everet,	12	0
Per firmam infra pasturam in Whittington vocat' Great Moor,	26	0

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September

September 4, 1775. At the Rolls Chapple is a long grant to Richard Venables and John Maynard, amongst which the rectory of Manceter alias Mancester, containing Atherstone, Manceter, Hartshill, Oldbury, and Watling Street, with all the emoluments and advantages to the said rectory belonging, subject to two rents of two shillings and four pence issuing out of said rectory, the first to the earl of Warwick, the second to Dated 21 Dec. an. 3 regis Edward VI.

From the aforefaid Richard Venables and John Maynard so much of the said rectory and emoluments as belonged to Hartshill, descended to or were purchased by Cook lord of Hartshill, and Sir John Poingts, who in 1608 sold such of the said lands of Hartshill, with the tythes and all ecclesiastical demands as then were there, &c. at the same time also the tythes of the lands late Robert earl of Essex to Remington the tenant, who afterwards purchased the said lands of the marquis of Hereford, and the marchioness, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Robert earl of Essex deceased.

P. 102. In a book of Inrollment of leases in the reign of king Henry the Eighth, remaining in the Augmentation Office at Westminster, it is contained (amongst other things) as followeth :

Hec indentura fca int' excellentissimũ principem et dñm dñm Henricũ octavũ Dei grã &c. ex una parte, et Amiam Hill de hospicio dñi regis geñosum ex altera parte, testat' qđ idem dñs rex p̄ advisament' consilii curie augmentaçon' revençonũ corone sue tradidit, concessit, et ad firmam dimisit prefat' Amie Hyll om̄es et om̄imod' decimas, privat' oblações, obvenç' et alia p̄ficua quecunq' tempore pascali, ac oblações quatuor principm̄ dier' seu festor' anni vulgarit' nuncupat' lez fouer principall offryng dayes, ac eciam decimas lane, agnellor', lini, canabi, aucar', porcellor' et vitulor' et alias minut' decimas quecunq' rcorie de Mancettor in com' Warr'. Ac eciam om̄es decimas feni in campis de Mancettor citra aquam de Anker ac om̄es decimas granor' in campis de Adderston dñe rcorie spectan' et p̄tinen', que qui'em rcoria de Mancettor nup̄ monasterio de Merevale in dco com' Warr' modo dissolut' dudum spectabat et p̄tinebat hend' et tenend' decimas p̄dict' et cetera p̄missa cum p̄tin' p̄fat Amie Hyll et assign' suis a festo Scti Michis archi prox' futur' usq' ad finem termini et p̄ terminum viginti et unius anno' extunc prox' sequen' et plenarie complend' reddend' inde annuatim dco dño regi, heredib' et successorib' suis viginti libras undecim solid' et quatuor denar' legalis monete Anglie ad festa annunciações bte Marie virginis et Scti Michis archi, vel infra unũ mensem post utrumq' festum festor' illor' &c. Et p̄ccus dñs rex vult et p̄ p̄sentes concedit qđ ipe, heredes et successores sui sex solid' et octo denar' annuatim allocand' et solvend' pro pane, vino, cera, et aliis necessariis expendend' in ecclia de Mancetto' p̄dict' ac sex solid' et octo denar' solvend' annuatim decano et capitulo ecclie cathis Lichef' p̄ pencōne exeun' de ecclia de Mancetto' p̄dict', necnon duodecim solid' et quatuor denar' annuatim solvend' archio Coven' p̄ sinodal' et pcuracōib' de ecclia p̄dict' ac decem libras tresdecim solid' et quatuor denar' annuatim solvend' vicario de Mancetto' p̄dict' p̄ salario five stipendio suo annuatim solvent seu solvi facient &c.

Dat' apud Westm' vicefimo octavo die Julii anno regni dci dñi regis tricesimo sexto.

P. 82. In a book of Inrollments of leases in the reign of king Henry the Eighth remaining in the Augmentation Office at Westminster is contained (amongst other things) as followeth :

Hec indentura fca int' excellentissimũ principem et dñm dñm Henricũ octavũ Dei grã &c. ex una parte, et Amiam Hyll de Atherston in parochia de Mansetter in com' Warr' valectũ camie dne Kaſine regine Anglie ex alia parte testat' qđ idem dñs rex p advisamentũ consilii cur' augmentacionũ revencionũ corone sue tradidit, concessit, et ad firmam dimisit p̄fato Amie totam illam cõem pistrinam ville de Atherston in parochia de Mansetter in com' Warr' modo in tenura et occupacione p̄dci Amie nuper monasterio de Mountgrace in com' Ebor' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' et p̄tinen' ac parcell' possessionũ inde existen' necnon viginti et quatuor acras et dimid' unius acre t̄re arabilis jacen' et existen' in campis de Ennege et Alfuche in parochia de Mansetter p̄dca, ac triginta et sex acras et dimid' unius acre t̄re arabilis jacen' et existen' in campo vocat' Wyndemylnefeld in parochia p̄dca, necnon duas acras terre arabilis jacen' et existen' in Rye buttys in parochia p̄dca dco nup monastio dudũ spectan' et p̄tinen' ac parcell' possessionũ inde existen' ac om̄ia alia p̄ficia, cõia, comoditates, advantagia, et emolumenta quecunq' eidem pistrinae et terris qualiscunq' spectan' vel p̄tinen', &c. Hend' et tenend' pistrinam et terr' p̄dca &c. p̄fato Amie Hyll et assign' suis a festo nativitatis S̄ci Johis Bap̄te ultimo preterito usq' ad finem termini et p terminum viginti et unius annor' &c. Reddend' annuatim dco dño regi, hered' et successorib' suis quatuor libras et decem solidos, videlt pro p̄dca pistrina triginta solidos et p p̄dcis terris sexaginta solidos legalis monetẽ Anglie ad festa S̄ci Martini in yeme et nativitatis S̄ci Johis Bap̄te vel infra unũ mensem post utrumq' festũ festaq' illor' ad cur' p̄dcam p equales porciones annuatim solvend' durante termino p̄dco &c.

Dat' apud Westm' sc̄do die Julii anno regni dci dñi regis tricesimo septimo.

P. 103. 104. Coppy of part of the conveyance of the church of Manceter with the rectorial tythes, &c. to Amyas Hill de Atherston, 3 Edward VI.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos hoc prefens scriptũ pervenerit, Ricardus Venables et Johannes Maynard armigeri salutem. Sciatis nos prefat' Ricardum et Johan' pro quadam pecuniæ summa nobis p Amisium Hill vulgariter nuncupat'. Amyas Hill de Atherstone in com' Warr' prae manibus bene et fideliter p̄solut' unde fatemur nos plenarie fore satisfactos et contentatos, eundemque Amisium Hill, heredes, executores, et administrat' suos inde acquietatos esse, p presentes tradidisse, seofasse, vendidisse, bardiganasse, concessisse, et p toto presenti scripto nostro confirmasse prefato Amisio Hill totam illam rectoriam et ecclesiam nostram de Manceter, alias dict' Mancester, ac advocacionem, donationem, liberã dispositionem, et jus patronatus vicarie ecclesie parochialis de Manceter alias dict' Mancester, cum suis juribus, jurisdictionibus, et pertinentiis universis in com' Warr' nuper monasterio de Merevale in eodem com' modo dissoluto dudum spectant' et pertinent', ac parcell' possessionum,

num, juriū, seu reventium inde nuper existen' ac etiam omnes et omnimodo decimas nostras quascunque, oblaciones, obventiones, redditus, reventiones, fructus, ac alia jura, jurisdictiones, proficua, commoditates, emolumenta, et hereditamenta nostra quæcunque cum pertinentiis annuatim et de tempore in tempus provenienti sive crescend' in villis, campis, parochiis, hamblettis de Manceter, Watlingstreet, Witherley, Oldebury, Harteshull, Anker, et Atherston in diſt' com' Warr' ac alibi ubicunque in eodem com' Warr' dicte reſtorie et eccleſie de Manceter quoquo modo ſpectand' vel pertinend' aut ut parcell' ejusdem reſtorie et eccleſ' pabit' accept' unitat' ſeu reputat' existen' ac reversionem et reversiones quascunque om' et ſingulor' premiſſor' et inde parcella nec non redditus et annuaia proficua quecunque reſervat' ſuper quibuſcunque diſiſionibus et conceſſionibus omnibus de premiſſis ſeu de aliqua inde parcellor' quoquo modo fact' Exceptis tamen ſemper et nobis, heredibus, et assignatis noſtris omnino reſervatis, decimis bladorum, garbarum, et granorum accruat' et de tempore in tempus proveniend' et crescend' in Harteshall predict' ac decimis lanæ, agnellor', vitulorum, porcellor', aucar', canabi, et lini, et aliis proficuis, corriditibus, et emolumentis quibuſcunque provenienti' et crescent' de duobis meſſuagiis et duobus cottagiis ac omnibus terris et tenementis modo vel nuper in ſeveralibus tenuris ſeu occupationibus Riçi Robinſon, Riçi Barefote, Johannis Scot, et Johannis Coddy in Oldebury predicta, preterquam oblaciones et obventiones in Oldebury predict' et preterquam omnes decimas ſœni de predict' meſſuagiis, cottagiis, terris, et tenementis, et ceteris premiſſis modo vel nuper in ſeparalibus tenuris predictor' Riçi Robinſon, Riçi Barefoote, Johannis Scott, et Johannis Coddy, quas quidem oblacion' obvention' et decimas ſœni in Oldebury predict' nos pſefat' Ricd's Venables et Johannes Maynard tradidimus, liberavimus, dimittimus, conceſſimus, et confirmavimus, et p præſentes tradimus, liberavimus, dimittimus, concedimus, et confirmamus pſefato Amiſio p præſentes.

In cujus rei teſtimonium huic præſenti ſcripto noſtr' ſigilla noſtra appoſuimus. Dat' viceſſimo ſecundo die Decembris anno regni Edwardi Sexti Dei gratia Angl', Franc', et Hibern' regis, fidei deſenſoris, et in terra eccleſiæ Angliæ et Hibern' ſupremi capitis tertio.

Schedule or ſhort abſtract of Deeds relating to the Tythes of the Hamlet of Hartſhill in the Pariſh of Manceſter in the County of Warwick. P. 104.

3 Edward VI. 1549, Dec. 21. Grant from king Edward the Sixth to Richard Venables and John Maynerde, eſquires (inter alia) Tot' ill' reſtoriam et eccliam ſram de Manceter als diſt' Manceſter, ac advocacōem, donaōem, libam diſpoſicōem, et juſ patronatus vicarie eccleſie poſchialis de Manceter als diſt' Manceſter cum ſuis juribus, juſiſdictionibus, et p̄tin' univerſis, in com' ſro Warr' nup' monaſterio de Meryvale in eodem com' modo diſſolut' dudum ſpectan' et p̄tinen' ac p̄cell' poſſeſſion'

session' seu reversion' inde nuper existent' ac etiam omnia et singula messuagia, domos, edificia, horrea, stabula, columbar', stagna, vivaria, hortos, pomaria, gardina, terras, prat', pascuas, pastur' cōia vasta, bruer', mariscos, aquas, piscarias, boscos, subboscos, reddit', reversiones, s̄vicia, decimas, oblationes, ac alia jura, jurisdições, p̄ficua, commoditates, emolumenta, et hereditamenta n̄ra quecunque ac p̄tin' in villis, campis, pochis, et hamlettis de Manceter, Watlyngstrete, Wytherley, Oldebury, Herrshall, Anker, et Atherston in d̄co com' n̄ro Warr' et alibi ubicunq' in eodem com' d̄ce rectorie et ecclie de Manceter quoquo modo spectan' vel p̄tin' aut ut pcell' ejusdem rectorie et ecclie ante hac hir' cognit', accept', usitat', seu reputat', existent'. Damus ulterius, &c. omnes et om̄od' boscos, subboscos, et arbores, &c. &c. necnon redditus et annalia p̄ficua quecunque reservat' sup' quibuscunque dimissionibus et concessionibus, &c. &c. p̄ presentes concedimus p̄fat' Rīco Venables et Johi Maynerde omnia et singula p̄missa sup̄ius expressa et specificat' cum p̄tin' adeo plene, libe, et integre, ac in tam amplo modo et forma put ultimi abbes, priores, abbisse, priorisse, et ceteri gubernatores d̄cor' nup' monasterior' et priorat' vel aliquis vel aliqui p̄decessor' suor seu eor' alicujus in juribus nup' monasterior' et priorat' illor' seu eor' alicujus aut aliqui cantariste, capellani, vel incumben' aut alii ministri seu gūnatores d̄car' nup' cantar' et libar' capellar' gildar' et collegior' aut aliquis alius sive aliqui alii p̄missa aut aliquam hentes, possidentes, et si inde existen' eadem aut aliquam inde pcell' unquam fuerunt, tenuerunt, vel gavisi fuerunt, &c. et adeo plene, libe, et integre, ac in tam amplo modo et forma put ea omnia et singula ad manus n̄ras r̄one et p̄textu cujusdam actus de diversis collegiis, cantariis, libis capellis, gildis, et fraternitat' dissolvend' et determinand' in parlamento tento apud West' anno r̄ni n̄ri primo inter al' edit' et pois aut' r̄one vel p̄textu sepaliū dissolut' d̄cor' nup' monasterior' et priorat' seu quocunque alio modo jure seu titulo devenerunt, seu devenire debuerunt, ac in manibus n̄ris jam existen', &c. Que quidem rectorie, messuagia, terre, &c. &c. modo in toto extenduntur ad clarum annuū valorem 13 l. 19 s. 11 d. Except' tamen semper et nob' heredibus et successor' n̄ris omnino reservat' omnibus campanis et toto plumbo de insuper omnibus singulis p̄missis existen'.

To hold to and to the use of the said Richard Venables and John Maynerde, their heirs and assigns for ever, to be held of the king, his heirs and successors, as of his manor of Eitgrenewiche in the county of Kent, by fealty only in fee soccage, and not in capite, by the rents and services, &c. The king further grants the dues, rents, and profits of the said messuages, &c. except a yearly pension of 6 s. 8 d. to the dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Lichfield, and 10 l. 13 s. 4 d. per ann. to the vicar of Manceter for the time being, and 13 s. 10 d. to the archdeacon of Coventry for synodals, and 20 s. to the bishop of Coventry, and 6 s. 8 d. per ann. for bread, wine, wax, and oil, to be yearly spent in the same church.

4 Edward VI. 1550, May 24. Grant from Margaret Booth, gen', to Robert Green of the tythes of Hartishill and Oldburye, except (as by Mr. Okeover's deed q. v.) viz. the tythes granted by said Margaret Booth and Richard Venables to Amias Hill.

4 and 5 Philip and Mary, 1558, February 6. Release from Robert Grene to Michael Parkar and Edmund Parkar of Hartishill, in fee in their possession then being of all his right, title, &c. of, in, and to all and all manner of tythes, of all and all manner of grain yearly arising, &c. in Hartishill, or in the lordship thereof to the rectory of Mancetter only belonging.

Easter Term, 4 and 5 Philip and Mary. Indentures of fine between Michael Parkar and Edmund Parkar, plaintiffs, and Robert Grene, gent. and Dorothea his wife, deforciant, of the tythe of all manner of grain and corn of every sort and kind with the appurtenances in Hartishill in the parish of Mancetter.

10 Elizabeth, 1568, June 24. Grant from Robert Hyll of Atherston (son of Amias), gent. to Michael Parker and Edmund Parker of Hartshill, in fee of the tythes of hay, wool, lamb, flax, hemp, geese, and hogs, gardens, orchards, woods, underwoods, herbage, money, and the Easter book of Hartfell, mortuaries, and all other customary oblations, &c. within the lordship of Hartshill.

10 Elizabeth, 1568, June 30. Release from said Robert Hyll to said Michael and Edmund Parker of all his right to said last mentioned tythes, in consideration of 50 l.

16 Elizabeth, 1574, February 16. Grant from Edmund Parker to his uncle Michael of same tythes.

18 Elizabeth, 1576, December 28. Counterpart of indenture between said Michael Parker and Robert Parker, his son and heir of the one, and Christopher Wright of Happisford in the county of Warwick, and Oliver Wright of Extall, gentlemen of the other part, being a settlement on intended marriage of said Robert Parker and Katharine eldest daughter of Andrew Broke, of the tythes of corn, hay, wool, lamb, &c. &c. and other tythes whatsoever predial and personal, great and small, arising in the Town fields, lordship, and territories of Hartshill, to hold to said Christopher and Oliver, and the heirs of survivor to the following uses, as to the whole tythe to the said Michael Parker untill the marriage, remainder to said Christopher and Oliver and their heirs, and the heirs of survivor as to one moiety to the use of said Michael and his assigns for life, and to hold the other moiety to said Robert Parker and Katharine for life, and life of longer liver, remainder to the heirs of the body of the said Robert; remainder to the right heirs of said Michael for ever.

31 Elizabeth, 1589, February 20. Indenture between Sir Henry Goodiere of Polesworth, knt. and Frances his daughter of the one, and William Cook of the parish of St. Martyn's in the Fields in the county of Middlesex, Esq. and Francis Bacon of Gray's Inn, Esq. and Weston Shaw, servant to William Cooke of the other part, in consideration of 300 l. said Henry Goodere and Frances his daughter, grant, bargain, and sell unto the said Francis Bacon and Weston Shaw and their heirs, all the tythes of corn, hay, wool, lamb, &c. &c. in Hartshill, together with all such right as they the said Sir Henry and his daughter have by virtue of an indenture dated 6th July, in the 29th year of her majesty, between Robert
Parker

Parker of Hartshill and Katharine his wife of the one, and the said Sir Henry Goodere and Frances his daughter of the other part, to hold to and to the use of the said Francis Bacon and Weston Shaw in fee, subject to a condition.

Hillary Term, 31 Elizabeth. Indenture of fine between Sir Henry Goodere, knt. and Frances his daughter, plaintiffs, and Robert Parker and Katharine his wife, deforciant, of all tythes both great and small in Hardehull, alias Hartshill, in the parish of Manceter alias Manceter.

31 Elizabeth, June 13. Assignment from Francis Bacon and Weston Shawe to Mr. Cooke of the tythes of Hartshill.

October 18, 1704. Grant from Frances Jacob, widow, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Roberts, of Sutton Cheney in the county of Leicester, Esq. and Elizabeth his wife, deceased, late one of the sisters and coheirs of William Glover, Esq. deceased, in consideration of 40 s. paid by George Wright, John Twells, and Ezechiel Wright, Esq. of all and all manner of tythe and tenths as well great as small, and all oblations, offerings, mortuaries, and other spiritual and ecclesiastical dues arising in the Town fields, liberties or territories of Hartshill alias Hardehull in the parish of Manceter, and all his estate, right and title in and to the said tythes, to hold to and to the use of the said George Wright, John Twells, and Ezechiel Wright, and their heirs and assigns for ever.

The following particulars should have been inserted p. 124, l. 14.

Sir William Cook and Sir John Poyntz passed these lands undernamed to Ralph Burton, Esq. Francis Purefoy, Esq. and Edward Lewes, gent. the 6th of James I.

One messuage and one cottage, wherein Thomas Hewet dwelt, and Littlefield, Nursfield, divided into two parts, Ferney croft, Johns croft, the Leyes, Broom close, the Paddocks, Aldermore, three closes called Rideings, the herbage and weeding of Hafellmore and Hillmore.

William Migh the younger, 1 messuage, 1 croft, Cinder hill, the Middlefield or Cornfield divided, the Newes, the Nether meadow, the Furmoore meadow, the Leys, the Ridmore, the Furmoore, and the herbage and weeding of a spring wood called the Moore.

Thomas Holt, a grist milne, a garden and orchard, the miln dam, the miln stream fishing, the miln holm, the hither home, and the farther home.

John Ward, 1 messuage, 1 little croft, the Wallnut yard, the Town croft, the Nine Lands, the Wardshill as divided, the Pinfold croft, and the Mill lane end.

Edmund Harris, 1 messuage, the Town croft, the Hall croft, or Tophills, the Pinfold croft, the Mill lane end, and the Pittle or Pingle.

Ralph Parker, the Marlepit flat, a Pingle in the Moore meadow, the weeding of two orchards, the Moore corner, the Moore belonging to the Brent house, the Moore meadow, a Moore with the priviledge of pasturing called Ground Moore meadow, with the dor wast, and green goods, Yard End an orchard near the Hollows the new taken in in two parts.

Henry Stanley, its hay, one garden, one yard, the Rails flat, Alcots flat or 12 lands, the Wardell, the Hemp yard, the Sope meadow.

S

William

William Remington, one messuage, one garden, one orchard, the Pinfold croft, the great Wardell, the Lease, the Moore, the Caldwell as it is divided, the Webland least, the Webland, Eaton lane end, and the Slade meadow.

R. Remington, one cottage, one garden, the Wardell, the Wardell croft, the Hill close, the Bullmeare meadow, one piece of meadow in Slade meadow, the herbage and weedings in Allen's moore.

John Wood, one messuage, one orchard, one workhouse, one stable, one garden and orchard, the Yard's end close.

John Alcock vel Alcot, one messuage, one orchard, one garden, one pasture called the Yard, the Hillfield, the Woolvey Oakfield, the Conygree, Eatonlane end, the Moor meadow.

Joyce Parker, one messuage, one orchard, one garden, one little orchard, and oxhouse yew, one close called the Yard, the Town croft, the Nine Lands.

One cottage and backside, the Six Lands. One cottage and backside called Pinfold croft. One little meadow, half Gunne meadow, the new taken in, the Rydeing, the Barn yard.

Robert Burbage, one messuage, one barn, one garden, one orchard, one little yard, the Yard's end croft, the Slade close, and one piece of meadow, the Dearefbank, Burbridge's Moore meadow, the herbage and weeding of Burbridge's Moore wood.

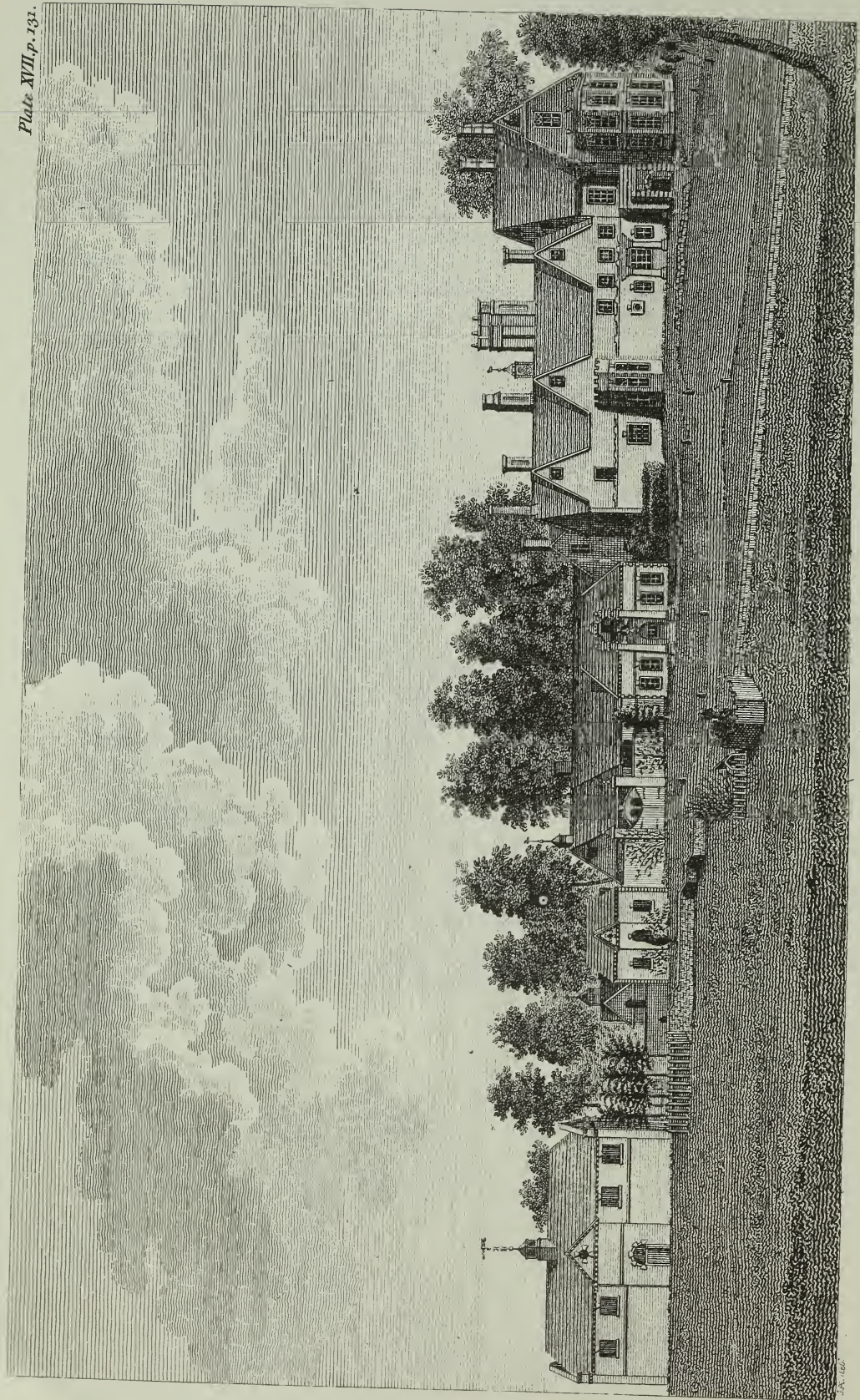
William Might, one messuage, one stable, one garden, one orchard, the Hoggs Eyon divided, the Falls being two closes, the great Wardell, the upper Wardell, and nether Wardell, the Bednalls, the Broom close, the Pyngle, the Moore meadow, Might's Moore, half the Gun meadow.

Alexander Weston, one messuage, one stable, one garden, one barn, one orchard, the Jumbell Flatt or Mill-lane end, one piece of arable land called the Voxhill close, the house and loft, Weston's ke corner in two pieces, Weston's Slade hill, the Hookes, the Heath, the nether Slade, the herbage and weedings of Weston's Moore.

Richard Bentley, one cottage, one garden called the Chappell.

Thomas Holt, one messuage called Wolbey houst, one barne, one stable yard and orchard, one croft and barn, Wolvey field, the Barkers be two severall fields, three tostes called the Newfo, the nethar mead sometime parcel of Barkers, the middle mead, the Pingle, and the Sweet Moore.

See in p. 119. extracts of two deeds, dated the 8th and 25th of Elizabeth, from Sir Anthony Cook, and Anthony his grandson, which relate to the manor house of Hartshill.



South East View of Anstey Hall.

A N S L E Y.

“ *BOURNE*, passing on about a mile below *Fillongley* church, is enlarged with another torrent that riseth in *Ansley*, of which place I am next to take notice. In *Edward* the Confessor's time the Countess *Godeva* (of whom I have spoke in *Coventre*) enjoy'd it ¹: but after the Norman Invasion, being in the king's hands, it was, together with *Coventre* and the other lands which belonged to that Countess, fermed ² out to one *Nicholas*; and in the general survey then taken (where it is written *Hanslei*) is joyned with *Hartshill*, there also recorded by the name of *Ardreshille*; both which were valued at c.s. as also from Henry I's time, for many ages afterwards, possesst jointly by a family of good note, whose chief seat being at *Hartshill*, assumed that place for their surname. But by a daughter and heir of *Hardreshull*, came at length to *Culpeper*, as the descent in *Hartshill* doth shew.

Which family of *Culpeper* having their principall seat at *Bedgebury* in *Kent* (for the most part), made little residence in this Country; so that in process of time they sold away all their interest here, Sir *Alexander Culpeper*, knight, first passing ³ in fee-ferm unto *John Ludford*, gentelman, (his receiver and ⁴ officer for this mannour and *Hartshill*) much of the demesns in 20 H. VII. A. D. 1505. And afterwards *John Culpeper* (a younger⁵ son to the said Sir *Alexander*), on whom it seems this was settled, all ⁷ the rest, together with the mannour, unto *Robert* and *Edmund*

¹ Domesday Lib.² Ibid.³ Ex autog. penès G. Ludford gen.⁴ Ibid.⁵ Ex Coll. Edw. Dering, Bar.⁶ Rec. de T. Hill.⁴ & ⁵ Edw. VI. Rot. 148.

Wyethe, of *Loughborough in Com. Leic.* gentlemen. Which *Robert* and *Edmund* in 5 Hen. VIII. for the summe of *xlviij li.* granted ¹ it to *John Rampton*, of *Atherston*, yeoman; of whom *George Wightman*, of *Elmesthorpe in Com. Leic.* gentleman, having purchased ¹ it in 1 *Eliz.* past ¹ it in mortgage unto *William Glover*, Citizen and Dyer of *London*, in 34 of the said Queen's reign; who in 43 *Eliz.* obtained a release ¹ from *Tho. Wightman*, of *Burbage*, gentleman, son and heir to the said *George*, of all his right and title therein.

To which *Will. Glover* (afterwards a knight and alderman of *London*) succeeded Sir *Thomas Glover*, of *Wilsdon in Com. Midd.* knight, his son and heir; who, together with the lady *Anne* his mother, sold ¹ it in 6 *Jac.* unto *James Wightman*, of *Brackman* in the said countie of *Leicester*: which *James* 10 *James*, 1613, past ¹ it unto *George Ludford*, of *Ansley*, gent. (descended from the before-specified *John Ludford*) who left issue ² *John*³; [who by *Catherine* the daughter of *James Prescot* of *Warwick*, gent. had issue five sons and three daughters; *Jane* the eldest of the daughters, married Mr. *Thomas Bracebridge*, vicar of *Kettleby*, in the county of *Leicester* (descended from the ancient family of the *Bracebridges* of *Kingsbury*, in *Warwickshire*); whose youngest son *Thomas* was by the last will of his uncle *James Ludford*, dated 7th November, 11 *William III.* and A. D. 1699, consti-

¹ Ex autog. penès præf. G. Ludford:

² Sir William Dugdale, in 1656 edition, has made a mistake; which Thomas, in his edition of 1730, has copied; and consequently made a generation more in the Ludford family than there was. Sir William Dugdale says, "who left issue *George*, now owner thereof." Thomas follows, by saying in page 1037, "and he *John*;" whereas the said John was the eldest son and successor of the first and only *George Ludford*, as appears both by the MS. pedigree in the possession of the present John Ludford, Esq. and also by a marginal note in an old family edition of Sir William Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, 1656, p. 747, a line being drawn under the word *George*, and *John* written in the margin.

³ See Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, 1656, p. 747.

tuted his heir, on condition he assumed the name and arms of *Ludford*, as were also the heirs male of his body lawfully issueing; and for default of such issue, it was bequeathed by the said will to *Samuel* the eldest son of the said *Thomas* and *Jane Bracebridge*, upon the same conditions; and he the said *Thomas* dying without issue, it descended accordingly to his said eldest brother *Samuel*, who by *Catherine*, daughter of *John Lewis* of *Guildford Com. Sur.* gent. left issue *John Bracebridge Ludford*, who in the year 1733 married *Juliana* the youngest daughter of Sir *Richard Newdigate* of *Arbury* and *Harefield*, baronet, and departed this life 16th November, 1775, leaving issue by the aforesaid *Juliana* (who survived him to 19th January, 1780) three daughters *Juliana*, *Frances*, and *Millisent*, (after having buried two, viz. *Elizabeth* and a former *Juliana*), and one only son *John*, who was born 17th August 1756 at *Ansley-hall*, and is the present owner thereof. The said *John Ludford*, on 16th June 1778, married *Elizabeth* the eldest daughter of *John Boswell*, late of *Witton* near *Birmingham*, gent. by whom he now has issue (viz. A. D. 1790), three daughters, *Elizabeth Juliana*, *Frances Millisent*, and *Mary Ann* ¹.]

“ The CHURCH² (dedicated to S. *Laurence*) being given to³ the nuns of *Polesworth*, in king *John*’s time, by *William de Hardredesbull*, son of *Robert*, and grandchild to *Hugh*, was appropriated to them shortly after; and thereupon an assignation made⁴ of what the perpetual vicar should have for his pains in serving the cure: which being found too little, and complaint made to the bishop, there was an augmentation⁵ thereof by virtue of a provincial constitution, which the archbishop of *Canterbury* and the rest of the bishops within his province had made to that

¹ Communicated, with the family pedigree, by John Ludford, Esq. of Ansley Hall.

² See a view of it, Plate XV. fig. 2.

³ Pat. 21 R. II. p. 3. m. 22. per Insp.

⁴ Ex autog. penès Edw. Stratford.

⁵ Ibid.

purpose, *viz.* that whereas the small tithes and obventions pertaining to the altar were valued but at L s. and the tithe-corn at xxiv. marks, the vicar and his successors should thenceforth have the fifth sheaf of the tithe-corn throughout the whole parish, to be delivered out of the tithe-barn belonging to the said nuns, after it should be gathered in by them, at their charge. This was done by Mr. *Simon de Balidon*, official to the bishop of *Coventry* and *Lichfield*, and by authority from the said bishop, on Friday next after the feast of S. *Dennis*, *An.* 1275 (3 E. I.)

In *An.* 1291 (19 E. I.) the rectory here was valued ¹ at vi. marks, and the vicarage at half a mark: but in 26 H. VIII. the same vicarage was rated ² at vi li. vi s. viii d. over and above ii s. iv d. allowed for *procurations* and *synodals*."

After the dissolution of the monasteries in 30 Hen. VIII. and A. D. 1539, the rectory or great tythes of Ansley were most probably granted by the King to *Charles Brandon* Duke of *Suffolk*, together with the other possessions belonging to the nuns of Polesworth. To whom it was granted by the Duke of *Suffolk*, or whether it ever reverted back to the Crown, is uncertain. But in the year 1615, 12 Jac. I. *Robert Stratford* of London was possessed thereof; as by his will, bearing date the same year, he charges it with 20s. yearly to be given in bread on Good Friday to poor persons in Ansley; and further devises it to his nephew *Edward Stratford*, when he attains the age of 28 years; from whom it has descended in lineal succession to the late *Francis Stratford* of Merevale, esq. and it is now vested in *Richard Geaß*, of Blythe Hall, esq. the descendant and successor of Sir William Dugdale, in right of his wife, the eldest daughter of the said F. Stratford as is hereafter mentioned.

The tenths, *xii.s. viid.* were discharged by an Act of Parliament in *An.* 1706, and the clear yearly value thereof returned to the governours of Queen Anne's bounty, was *lixl.*

The church is in the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, the archdeaconry of Coventry, and deanry of Arden.

About the year 1756 the church was entirely new-pewed, at the expence of the late J. Ludford, esq. the old gallery which darkened one of the large windows pulled down, and the porch on the south side shut up and enclosed for a vestry, the west door only being kept open for the use of the inhabitants coming to church. The rectory is now vested in *Richard Geest*, esq. of Blithe Hall, as trustee, and (in right of his wife) heir of the late *Francis Stratford*, of Merevale, esq. from whom the late *John Ludford*, esq. on the 22d of December, 1749, obtained a lease of the chancel for 1000 years, in exchange for a pew belonging to the Ludford family, in the body of the church: the said John Ludford having previously erected two new pews, with seats under them, for servants, the whole length of the old chancel, and having afterwards, A. D. 1760, built an entire new room at the end thereof of hewn stone eighteen feet square, which rises three steps above the old part of the chancel, and wherein the altar now stands. In the arch which separates the old from the new chancel on each side the steps stands on the North side the monument of John Ludford, esq. the inscription of which is inserted p. *152; and, on the South side, that of Samuel Bracebridge Ludford, esq. the inscription of which is inserted p. *152; and, in the South-East corner of the old chancel the monument of Miss Ludford, as mentioned p. *153. The communion table is of marble, supported by iron brackets; on each side of which are two pillars supporting an arch

¹ MS. in Scac.

² MS. penès S. A. eq. aur. f. 61. a.

painted in imitation of marble; under the arch is a glory, and IHS; and under it a picture of the publication of the birth of Christ to the shepherds, Luke, chap. II. v. 8. &c.

No mention being made of a church at Ansley in Domesday Book, it has been conjectured there was none there at that period; and the list of incumbents (see p. *160) commencing only about the reign of King John, or King Henry III. makes the conjecture more plausible; but, though a great part of the church is modern enough to justify this assertion, yet the arch which divides the old chancel from the body of the church is doubtless of greater antiquity, being in the exact form, though larger, of the Saxon arch over the North door, now stopped up, and the drawing whereof is inserted in plate VI: and there is reason to doubt the authenticity of Domesday respecting churches, it being well known there were many churches, in various parts of the kingdom, previous to that survey, which are not noticed in it. The tower, at the West end of the church, from the buttresses, seems to be of parallel date with the buildings of Hartshill castle, and Manceter church, being entirely of the same construction. It is of hewn stone, and measures 72 feet and upwards in height, and 18 feet by 17 feet square at the base, is very regular and well-built, and one of the best towers for so small a village in the county, if not the whole kingdom of England. There is a well stair-case through the tower from the floor to the leads under the battlements, consisting of 81 steps. A tradition prevails in the parish that the stone of which this tower was built was got out of a pit in the center of a piece of ground of 40 acres and upwards, lately put together, and now known by the name of the *New Park*; but, though the understratum of this country is a rock, nothing appears positively to justify this idea, it being more probable the stone was brought from Whitacre, being the same whereof the new chancel is built.

built. The roof of the body of the church is now leaded ; but it manifestly appears, that the original roof was tiled. It is supported like that of Westminster hall with brackets and transverse beams. The second on the North, and fourth on the South side, are of stone, the rest of wood. From an inscription upon one of the old ones, I. G. I. H. 1716, the time of their erection is fixed. Owing to decay and the damp weather in *An.* 1785, one of them, being rotted through, fell down, which occasioned a search into the remainder, and they were all found so bad, that it was necessary to place new ones in their stead: the second on the South side of which is inscribed T. A. I. A. 1786. Had not the stone brackets above mentioned assisted, and the search been timely made, probably this might have caused the utter ruin of the whole body of the church. The pinnacles at the top of the tower were burst and loosened through age, and upon inspection not capable of repair ; they were therefore all four taken down in 1789, and new ones are now about to be erected. In the vault made 1760 underneath the new chancel lie interred the bodies of the late J. Ludford, esq. and Juliana his wife, who both died in the 69th year of their age, on the days above mentioned ; also their eldest daughter, above mentioned ; and, by leave of the family, Miss Chichester, sister of the now Earl of Donegall ; and the late vicar, Dr. Cotterel, both relations of the family, Dr. Cotterel's mother being the sister of Samuel Ludford, Esq. and Miss Chichester, the daughter of the sister of the late Mrs. Ludford. The railed mounds on the South and North-West side of the church-yard being in a very ruinous condition, were by agreement of the persons charged with the repair thereof rebuilt with stone, 1789 ; the stone being given by the present J. Ludford, out of a quarry, about 100 yards East of the church, behind the manor-house in a field called the *Woodwards*. About 13 yards from the South-East
buttreſs

buttress of the new chancel, stands the base of one of the large crosses erected in most church yards before the Reformation, and destroyed, with many other valuable relics of antiquity, by the foolish and furious zeal of the Oliverian reformers of the Church of England. The shaft and cross, like most others, are gone, though there now remains one in Fillongley church-yard, with a shaft 7 feet high, and only the cross broken.

BRET'S HALL.

“ In this parish there is a place, though but of mean consideration, yet noted in the common maps by the name of **Bret's Hall**, from a family of that name, sometime owners thereof. Of which the first, as I thinke, was *William*, unto whom *Will. de Hardresbull* (lord of **Ansley** in *Hen. III.* time) gave ¹ certain lands here: from which *William* descended another *William*, unto whom the bishop of this diocese, in 34 *Edw. III.* granted licence ² to have divine service celebrated, for the space of two years, in a private oratorie here. But from these *Brets*, who possessed ³ it till the beginning of *Hen. IV.* time (which is above two hundred years), it came ⁴ to *Nicholas Palmer* of **Stanton** in *com. Leic.* and by the ⁵ daughters and coheirs of *William Palmer*, to *Harecourt* and *William Pouchin*. Which *William Pouchin*, in 37 *Hen. VIII.* past ⁶ away his interest to *John Purefey*, it being then reputed a mannour. Whereupon in 14 *Eliz.* ⁷ partition was made betwixt the said *John* and *George Harecourt*. To which *John Purefey* succeeded *Michaell*, who sold ⁸ his part thereof unto *John White*, of *Busby*, in **Leicestershire**.

¹ Ex autog. penes G. Ludford.

² Strett. f. 3. b.

³ Ex autog. penes Thomam White.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

[In this family it continued till the 15th of December, 1658, when Thomas White the elder, and Ellen his wife, and Thomas White the younger, passed it by indenture, bearing similar date, with other hereditaments, to William Thornton, of Manceter; and in Hillary term, 1658-9, a fine was levied of one messuage, two cottages, three gardens, two orchards, 20 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 7 acres of wood, and common of pasture for all cattle in Bret's Hall, Ansley, Hartshill, and Stockingford; wherein William Thornton aforesaid was plaintiff, and Thomas White the elder, and Ellen his wife, and Thomas White the younger, and Francis Bacon, clerk, and Barbara his wife, deforcients. The said William Thornton, on the 3d of April, 13 Charles II. and A. D. 1661, conveyed it to John Stratford, esq. of Horston Grange, in the parish of Nun Eaton; whose descendant Francis Stratford, late of Merevale, esq. on the 10th of October, 6 Geo. II. A. D. 1732, exchanged it for a spring wood, called Hoare-park, in the hamlet of Bentley and parish of Shustoke, and in consideration of £.180. with the late John Ludford, esq. whose son John above mentioned in Ansley is now possessor of it.

The site, as is hereafter observed, as well as most of the demesnes, are inclosed in the park at Ansley Hall. Part of the dwelling-house and the oratory above-mentioned, were standing at the time it was purchased by the late Mr. Ludford: it was surrounded by a moat, which now remains, though divided into two parts; the sides of the N. E. part of which were raised, and the whole enlarged some years ago, and carried round an adjacent piece of land, so as to form a complete island; in the centre of which stands a Chinese temple, built A. D. 1767, from the 2d figure in plate VI. of Sir William Chambers's Chinese designs; and in a cell underneath is erected the monument

of the Purefoys: a drawing whereof is engraved in Dugdale's History of Caldecote¹, fig. 4; and which was pulled down and thrown away into the church-yard when the church was repaired about 1766; from whence it was removed in 1778, in order to be preserved in its present situation.

The South-west part of the moat still retains its proper name; and about 17 yards West of it is a well of very good spring water, $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards deep, which is always full to the top, and in wet weather runs over. The house and oratory were pulled down about the year 1750, and the stones of the oratory removed into the old gardens of Ansley Hall, where in a small dale they were formed into a cell for an hermitage, and at present remain so. The late poet-laureat, Mr. Warton, wrote the annexed copy of verses there at the time mentioned at the top of them.

VERSES, written by the Rev. Mr. THOMAS WARTON, of Trinity-College, Oxford, and left under a Stone in the Hermitage, at Ansley Hall, in Warwickshire, in April, 1758.

I. BENEATH this stony roof reclin'd,
 I sooth to peace my pensive mind;
 And while to shade my lowly cave,
 Embowering trees their umbrage wave;
 And while the maple dish is mine.
 The beechen cup unstain'd with wine:
 I scorn the gay licentious crowd,
 Nor heed the toys that deck the proud.

II. Within my limits lone and still,
 The blackbird sings in artless trill:

: Ed. Thomas, vol. II. p. 1098; & Ed. Dugd. 1656, p. 790.

Fast

Fast by my couch, congenial guest,
 The wren has built her mossy nest;
 From social scenes, by Nature wise,
 To lurk, with innocence, she flies,
 Here hopes in safe repose to dwell,
 Nor ought suspects the sylvan cell.

III. At morn and eve I take my round,
 To mark how blows my flowery mound,
 And every budding primrose count,
 That trimly paints my blooming mount;
 Or o'er the sculptures, quaint and rude,
 Which deck my gloomy solitude:
 I teach, in many a wreath to stray,
 Fantastic ivy's gadding spray.

IV. While such pure joys retirement wait,
 Who but would smile at guilty state?
 Who but would wish his holy lot,
 In calm Oblivion's thoughtful grot?
 Who but would cast his pomp away,
 To take my staff and mantle gray,
 And to the world's tumultuous stage
 Prefer the peaceful Hermitage?

T. W.

M O N W O D E.

"This lying on the West side of **Ansley**, and in the same parish, had heretofore the reputation of a mannour; for by that name did Sir *John de Hardresbull* call it in 39 Edw. III. at which time he settled it¹ with **Ansley** and **Hardresbull** in the hands of certain feoffees; and so by records² of later time, hath

¹ Ex autog. penes W. Sheldon ar.

² Claus. 15 Edw. IV. in d. m. 17. Efc. 22 Edw. IV. n. 6.

it often been termed: but as it was originally a member of **Ansley**, so is it now deemed to be; no part (that I know) retaining the name, but a piece of waste ground lying on the utmost skirt thereof, called **Monwode Lee**."

[Though, as Sir William Dugdale observes, there is no part of Ansley retains the name of Monwode, except Monwode Lee, yet this is owing more to the lands having been vested in one family for a number of years, and conveyed with other parts of Ansley, than for want of vestiges of the ancient manor; both the Hardreshulls and Colepeppers being styled above, on p. 60, lords of the manor of Monwode; and Nature seems to have left a boundary to the manor, when Tradition is silent: a direct line drawn North from Ansley-mill to Hoare-park, cutting off a corner of the parish of Ansley, containing about 400 acres, and bounded nearly all round by lanes, which probably was the whole of the manor. Within this boundary are two places, which, from their names, appear to have been capital mansions, the one now destroyed called the Moat-house, and the moat of which still remains on the South side of Monwode Lea, a short way after you enter it from Ansley church; and the other, now called the Old-house, with two pieces of land adjacent, called the Great and Little Paddock. And here it is observable, that either our ancestors frequently changed their mansions; or capital houses were much more numerous formerly; as within the parish of Ansley, besides these two and Bret's Hall, there are no less than three others which appear to have been such, viz. the manor house of Ansley, situate at the church-end; a house called New Hall, situate upon the Colliery; and the present capital mansion, of Ansley Hall.]

Ansley, like most other places in England, owing to the perpetual variation of the English language in former times, has been called by different names. The following is the copy of Domesday as far as concerns this place :

W A R W I C S C I R E.

XV. TERRA COMITISSÆ GODEVÆ IN COLESHELLE HD.

Ip̃sa comitissa tenuit in *ARDRESHILLE* 7 *HANSLEI* II. hid.

T̃ra . ē . vii car̃ . Ibi sunt XIII . ulli cū . v . car̃ . Ibi vi , ac p̃ti.

Valuit . IIII . liβ . Modo . c . solid̃.

Here it is called *Hanslei* ; in Ecton, *Anseley* ; by Speed, *Auntley* ; in the old Manerial Court Rolls, *Anceley* ; and in old deeds of the Hardreshulls, *Ansele*, *Ainsley*, *Anesfleye*, *Anseley*, *Anesley*, *Anasfleye*, and *Ansley*. The name it is called by in Dugdale, and has usually gone by, except in the Court Rolls, where *Anceley* is still made use of, but never *Annesley*, which is not only a family name, but the name of several other places in England ; whereas *Ansley* or *Anceley* is only applied to this place, and no where else that is known.

The derivation appears to be from the Saxon word HEAN *, signifying altus, or high, and LIE †, which in the British is the same as *locus* in Latin ; and in the Saxon *Ley* signifieth ground untilled, as used above in Monwode Lea : so that the signification differs very little from Arley, to which it joins, and is much higher in point of situation ; that being called by Sir William Dugdale *locus altus*.

It is situated in the Hemlingford hundred of the county of Warwick, 52 degrees 31 minutes North of the equator, and in 1 degree 34 minutes West longitude of London, from whence

* See Dugdale, p. 80.

† Ibid. p. 67.

it is distant by the N. W. road 105 miles; 13 miles N. from Coventry, both through Nun Eaton and Fillongley; five from Nun Eaton; 23 miles W. of Leicester; $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles E. of Coleshill; $17\frac{1}{2}$ from Birmingham; 19 miles South of Litchfield, through Kingfbury and Fafeley; and 13 from Tamworth by ditto, nearly the whole of which is turnpike-road. That through Ansfley from Nun Eaton to Whitacre was erected by act of Parliament, the 1st of June, 1762. It was anciently, as is observed in Hartshill, a part of the forest of Arden; and its present appearance justifies the idea, the S. W. part of the parish carrying now much the appearance of some of the partially cultivated parts of North America, according to the observations of gentlemen who have been there. Its situation is very high, being a kind of unequal plain on the top of an extensive hill, which terminates here towards the South; at Hartshill and Oldbury to the East; at Merevale to the North; and at Over Whitacre to the West.

The form of the parish is nearly oval; the longest diameter of which along the turnpike-road is 4 miles, and the breadth about three. It contains 2869 acres and upwards, according to a survey taken in 1759; and by a survey of the inhabitants taken by the present vicar anno 1784, it then contained 568 persons, of whom only 4 (Roman Catholics) dissented from the Church of England. There are here 111 houses, and 11 full teams kept.

The parish register begins in the year 1637; the number of baptisms to the year 1656 was 289; marriages 48; and burials 71.

From 1688 to 1707, baptisms 246, marriages 47, and burials 198.

From

From 1731 to 1750, baptisms 235, marriages 67, and burials 163.

From 1760 to 1779, baptisms 435, marriages 100, and burials 245.

From 1780 to 1789, baptisms 220, marriages 40, and burials 157.

It is mentioned above in the account of the manor and parish, copied from Sir William Dugdale's Warwickshire, that this place is joined with Hartshill in the Conqueror's survey; upon which it is to be observed, that the constable of Ansley, chosen annually the day after Christmas-day, at the manor house of Ansley, by the parishioners, is also the constable of Hartshill; from which it appears, that the constablewick is a more ancient division than manors or parishes.

The manor is valued in Domesday at 100 shillings, being a knight's fee; and is now, including the value of the woods and mines, not far off 3000 pounds. There are about 50 acres of woodland still preserved in different parts of the parish, as spring wood; but most of the hedge-rows abound with oak and ash, to the growth of which the soil seems naturally adapted, and which occasions the forest appearance above-mentioned. The rest of the land is mostly arable, though there are some good upland meadows and pastures, but very little of what the graziers call prime-land (except about 50 acres in the manor of Bret's-hall); it bears very good crops of wheat and oats; but is not so favourable to barley, being naturally strong land inclinable to a marley clay.

About half a mile from the North-east side of Ansley-hall lies the mine of coals* mentioned in the deeds, page 138; which in this parish consists of upwards of 200 acres; but the vein continues into Nun Eaton South and Oldbury North; and for

* See the 2d deed of the Hartshills, on p. 137—138, under the word Carbo Maris.
many

many miles both ways to the borders of Staffordshire, and beyond the city of Coventry, they have been severally worked for many years, and supply all this country with coals. Upon the East or Basset side of the coal runs a vein of iron stone, which was worked formerly, but not of late years; and a few hundred yards from the South or deep side of the coal, and on the South-west side of Ansley-hall, lies a vein of lime-stone, which likewise accompanies the coal into the neighbouring parishes: the manor of Ansley being in this place the narrowest, and not far exceeding half a mile in breadth. The lime is used not only in building, but also as a manure for the land, to which, being applied in sufficient quantities, it is a beneficial improvement. The coal-pits are from 38 to 88 yards deep; and the lime-pits about 15 yards. At Ansley-hall, which is situated between the two delfs of coal and lime (though the miners have conjectured there might be coal under it at a very great depth), there are several wells of excellent water at 33 feet; and what is very remarkable, at the new house about half a mile West of it, a well was sunk, and no water could be found till they got to 80 feet deep; and at a cottage between the two houses, the cottager, a collier, attempting to sink a well, nearly ruined himself, and was obliged to give up the pursuit, not having come to water at the depth of the new house well, and the damp preventing him proceeding farther; and what renders this still more remarkable, there is at an old farm-house, not above 100 yards West of the new house, a draw-well of good water not exceeding three yards deep; and the spring of which is so strong, that it frequently runs over the top. About the year 1750, the late John Ludford, Esq; enclosed a small piece of ground for a park, which he afterwards enlarged to 100 acres, the present size, containing the site, demesnes, and part of the manor of Bret's hall, and

and also part of the parish of Nun Eaton; in this has frequently occurred the circumstance mentioned by Dr. Plot, in his History of Staffordshire, ch. VII. sect. 63, p. 258, viz. "Fawns cast with their lower jaws so short that they cannot suck; and so consequently all die; all of which are white, as if white was an imperfection in animals, as well as in plants." Dr. Plot is certainly right in his conjecture, that they are all white which are born so imperfect; and it is further observable, they are always buck fawns; they have been brought home alive, and tried to be sustained by cows milk without success; but the Doctor is certainly mistaken in his idea of white being an imperfection in deer, because there are many milk-white deer in this park; and it has been observed, both in the bucks and does, that they are larger and fatter deer when killed than any of the other colours.

Two other circumstances in Natural History which have happened at this place may not be unworthy observation, viz.

In the year 1781 an ewe sheep yeaned one ram-lamb; and in about eight or ten days after, which was the 3d of April, she again yeaned two lambs, viz. one ewe and one ram.

The first-yeaned lamb and the ewe-lamb were left with her, and the youngest ram-lamb was taken from her and reared a kade; the ewe-lamb died in four or five days, the other lamb being too strong, and taking all the ewe's milk from it: the ram-lamb which was reared a kade, was killed on the 21st of December, 1785, as a wether (after being sheared four times), and weighed 111 pounds when dressed.

On Monday the 17th of May, 1784, three rearing cow-calves about three months old got into a drying yard, where there was a yew-hedge (out of the croft into which they were turned to grafs by a gate being left open), and, as is supposed, eat very

*U

plentifully

plentifully of the yew; they were suckled as usual in the afternoon; and the next morning, viz. Tuesday, the 18th of May, two were found quite dead; and the third dying, to which they gave a few spoonfuls of oil, and it did not live half an hour after.

They were opened and skinned, and the entrails thrown upon a muck-hill, where the dogs got to them, and eat some of them; and a Dane-dog went out with the servants and horses, and was observed to drink at a spring, soon after which he was seen to leap up at the horse's nose as if to catch a fly from it, which he had frequently used to do, and dropped down dead immediately; upon bringing him dead home, being much alarmed for the safety of a favourite blood-hound, and not then having been informed of the other dog dying immediately after drinking, some sweet oil it was thought might relieve him, and a common drenching horn full was accordingly given him, in about five minutes after which he died in much the same way as the other dog before.

Many other dogs had eaten of the same entrails, but none else received any hurt, particularly two pointers, who were seen to eat voraciously of them, one of which is still living, and the other died of old age in January, 1790. The method which is supposed rendered yew innoxious to them was, the moment the effect of liquid was perceived by the death of the other two dogs, they were tied up and kept without water or any liquid for 24 hours; and this seems to prove that yew is innoxious to the stomach unless thrown into a state of fermentation by liquids drank after it. The yew-leaves quite green were found both in the entrails of the calves and the dogs killed by it; and they were perforated through with small holes, which certainly occasioned their death.

The

The torrent, or rivulet, mentioned by Dugdale, rises in the most Northern corner of the parish; from whence it runs in a South direction to a pool called Wagstaff's pool, where it unites with another small stream, which bounds part of the North-west side; and from thence runs in almost a direct line North-west for nearly two miles to Ansley-mill, which it works; and from thence turns again Southwards, and forms not only the South-west boundary of this part of the parish and manor, but also of the two hundreds of Hemlingford and Knightlow. Upon the entrance of Arley, it is united with another small brook, which rises at Nuthurst-Heath, and forms likewise this boundary line between the two parishes and hundreds. There are several other small brooks in the parish, one of which rises near the new park above mentioned, and runs East till it joins a third, which rises on the other side of Nuthurst-Heath, and forms the South bounds on this side. At the junction of these two streams (as well as at a small distance up a short brook, which falls into the Mill-brook before it enters Arley), there are still remaining cinders of iron stone, from which it appears there anciently has been two small smithies at these places for the melting of the iron stone, though no other tradition of them remains. A little lower on this stream a fourth joins it, which rises not far from Ansley Hall, and forms the South and East bounds between this manor and the manor of Stockingford, in the parish of Nun Eaton; to which place these united streams continue their course, and fall into the Anker. A fifth rises in Bret's Hall wood, and continues its course to Nun Eaton, but in a different direction. A sixth rises on the North East side the colliery, and forms the bounds between here and Oldbury and Hartshill; this also runs to Nun Eaton (but in another course the greatest part of the way), being

first joined by the Bret's Hall brook, and then by the Nuthurst Heath brook, within half a mile of the junction with the Ankor. A seventh stream rises at Birchley Heath, and forms the bounds between Ansley and Bentley North-west till it enters the parish of Over Whitacre, through which it runs, and unites with the Bourne, near Whitacre, Furnace End.

Inscriptions in the Church *.

1. Upon a plate of brass, fixed on a marble grave-stone in this church :

Orate pro animabus Johanne, quæ fuit uxor Roberti Palmer, nuper de Stoni Stanton gentilman, unius sororum Willielmi Bret nuper de Ansteley gentilman, ac pro animabus Johannis & Elizabeth liberorum dicti Roberti & Johanne ; que quidem Johanna obiit ultimo die mensis Octobris anno domini Millesimo CCCCLxxx. quorum animabus propitiatur Deus Amen. Nec non pro bono statu cujusdam Roberti, Willielmi, Ricardi, Henrici, Johanne, Josephe, & Margarete, filiorum & filiarum predictorum Roberti & Johanne.

2. In a window on the North-side of the church is this inscription :

Orate pro bono statu Johannis Ludford, & Alicie uxoris.

3. On a brass plate fixed to the wall of the church :

“ John Perkins, gent. who departed this life 19 of April 1618, and lieth buried in the middle alley of this church, did devise by his will in writing unto William Holbech, gent. George Ludford, Esq. John Vere, Thomas Sadler, and William Hill, and their heirs, two closes called the Newes, upon trust that they and their heirs shall yearly upon the fifth day of November, in Anceley church, presently after morning prayer, give and distribute the rents and profits thereof unto the most poor, needy, aged, and impotent persons dwelling and abiding in the parish of Anceley ; that when three of them shall be dead, a new feoffment to be made to the most sufficient and honest freeholders of Anceley, by the survivors, upon like trust ; and so to be renewed from time to time for ever. Pietatis ergo hoc gratæ memoriæ dedicavit Barnabus Holbeach.”

4. On flat stones :

“ George Ludford, Esq. was buried here A. 1627.

And also John Ludford, Esq. his son, A. 1675.

James Ludford, Esq. departed this life Decem. 29, A. 1699, in the 44th year of his age.

Thomas Ludford, fellow of Magdalen college, Oxon, departed this life the 1st Sept. A. 1687, in the 28th year of his age.

Underneath was first interred Thomas eldest son of George Ludford, Esq. who died young.”

* Of these inscriptions Nos 1. and 2. were in Dugdale's edition of 1656 ; 3, 4, 5, 6, were added by Dr. Thomas ; the others by Mr. Bartlett.

5. At the bottom of the church* :

“ Hic jacet Franciscus Bacon,
 Sacræ Theologiæ
 Profeffor,
 Eccl. Lichfeld
 Præbendarius,
 Hujus Eccl. Vicar.
 Obiit an. Dom.
 MDCLXXXII.
 annoque æt. LXXXIV.”

6. In the chancel, on a square pedeftal of black marble adorned with an urn, thefe arms quarterly ; 1. Azure, a chevron between three boars heads Or, 2. Or, on a chevron Azure three leopards’ heads of the firft. 3. Gules, two bars Or, 4th as 1ft impaling, Sable, a chevron between three owls Argent.

“ To the memory of
 John Ludford of Anſley, ſecond ſon of George Ludford, of Witherley in the county of Leiſceſter, Eſq.

Who married Catherine, daughter of James Preſcot of Warwick, gent. by whom he had iſſue five ſons and three daughters, viz. Jane, John, James, Michael, Thomas, Catherine, George, and Merial.

Jane married Mr. Thomas Bracebridge, vicar of Kettleby in Leiſceſterſhire, all the reſt dying young or unmarried. James, the longeſt ſurvivor, a gentleman of great ingenuity, good learning, ſingular piety, did, by his laſt will and teſtament, conſtitute his nephew Thomas youngeſt ſon of Mr. Bracebridge aforeſaid, heir of all his lands, on condition that he aſſumed the name of Ludford. The ſaid James departed this life December 29, 1699, in the 44th year of his age.

Catherine the diſconſolate relict of the ſaid John Ludford, Eſq.
 as a teſtimony of her deareſt affection to her huſband and children deceased,
 and in this chancel interred,
 cauſed this monument to be erected, December 1700.”

7. In the chancel, oppoſite the other, on a ſquare pedeftal of white ſtatuary marble adorned with an urn of black veined marble, with a gold phœnix at top, theſe arms, quarterly Azure a chevron between three boars heads Or. 2. Sable a chevron between three owls Argent. 3. Vairy Argent and Sable a fefs Gules. Fourth as firſt.

“ M. S.
 Samuelis Bracebridge Ludford, arm.
 Nat. an. Salut. 1680 ; denat. 1727.
 Qui patrimonio in Ephebis orbatus,
 Et Thomæ fratri juniori poſthabitus, illius morte,
 Jacobo avunculo paululum ſuperſtitis,
 Res avitas obtinuit.
 Fuit ille
 Incorruptâ fide et amicitia,
 Paterfamilias indulgens ;
 Erga omnes humanitate ſummâ.
 Fidus reipublicæ civis ;

* This epitaph is entirely gone, ſtone and all.

Quod

Quod autem officiorum fons est,
 Et instar omnium,
 Verâ in Deum pietate, in Christum fide,
 Ejusque cupiens vitâ referre disciplinam,
 Ecclesiam Anglicanam
 primævæ proximam
 præcipue coluit.
 Johannes B. Ludford fil. nat. max
 optimo patri
 L. M. M. P. 1761."

8. " To the memory of
 Elizabeth the eldest daughter of
 John B. Ludford, Esquire,
 and
 Juliana his wife,
 youngest daughter of
 Sir Richard Newdigate
 of Arbury, Baronet;
 born 4 February 1733-4,
 died 10th May 1741,
 and
 was buried in the vault belonging
 to the Newdigate family
 at Harefield in Middlesex;
 but
 removed to the vault here
 in October 1765."

9. Upon a tablet over the vicar's seat:

" Sarah Ebdell died April 9, 1745, aged 25."

10. On a board affixed to the wall of the church:

" Mary Oughton, widow, buried April 29th, 1713, gave five pounds to be paid to the vicar of Ansley, the interest one year, for Primmers and Testaments, the other for shoes for poor children for ever.

The money is now laid out in rebuilding poors' houses, and the interest is to be paid by the overseers, April 6, 1767."

11. An atchievement of John Stratford, Esq. of Merivale, [buried here September 6, 1724,] in the chancel:

Argent, a lion rampant Gules, upon 5 bars Sable, impaling Vert 3 horses Argent. Crest, an armed arm proper.

12. Over the chancel door, before Mr. Stratford white-washed it about 1736 at he request of T. E. vicar, was this inscription* :

“ Mr. Robert Stratford, gent. buried the 30th of August, 1615, gave twenty shillings yearly for ever to be given in bread to the poor of Anceley ; besides other gifts which he gave to the church.”

N. B. The bread was always given to the poor of Ansley on Good Friday, by Mr. Stratford of Merevale, and his father before him, &c. &c. &c.

13. Over the communion-table was written this text :

“ Matt. xi. 28, 29. Come unto me, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me : for I am meek and lowly in heart : and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

14. Over the monument : “ Prov. iii. 9. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and “ with the first fruits of all thine increase.”

Behind the monument : “ Prov. iii. 3. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee “ bind them about thy neck, write them upon the table of thine heart.”

15. In the aisle of the church : “ Samuel Ludford, Esq. died Nov. 17, anno Domini 1727, aged 47 years.

“ Mrs. Sarah Ebdell, wife of Gilpin Ebdell, of Long Itchington, and daughter of Martin Holbeche, of Fillongley Hall, gent. departed this life April 9th, 1745, aged 25.

Also Elizabeth their daughter, August 5th, 1745, aged 4 Months.”

In the church-yard next the church-door :

1. “ Here lies the body of Elizabeth Oughton, the loving wife of Francis Oughton, of this parish, who departed this life the 20th day of Dec. 1725, in the 77th year of her age.”

2. “ Here lieth the body of Thomas Power, who had issue by Elizabeth his wife, three sons and two daughters, and departed this life April the 3d, anno Domini M. J. 1716, aged 52 years.”

3. “ Here lieth the body of Arthur Higham, who deceased this life June 7th, 1704, aged 59 years.”

4. “ To the memory of Elizabeth Power, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Power, late of Ansley, who departed this life October 20, 1714, in the 19th year of her age.”

* This inscription, and Nos 13 and 14, are all gone, as the title expresses.

9. “ To

5. "To the memory of Edward Parker, who departed this life May 25th, 1760. Also Sarah Parker, who departed this life October 27th, 1761, aged 38."

6. "To the memory of Elizabeth, the wife of Clement Bettridge, of this parish, who departed this life 1757, aged 66."

7. "Here lieth the body of the late Rev. Thomas Ebdell, who was near thirty years vicar of Ansley; he died Sept. 3, 1759, aged 69—A most faithful pastor, a good husband, and a tender father.

"The body of also Mrs. Mary Ebdell, his widow, who died Dec. 11, 1765, aged 85.

8. "Beneath this stone is deposited the body of Hannah Archer; she departed this life January 16, 1782, aged 34."

9. "In memory of John Day; he departed this life Dec. 25, 1780, aged 65."

10. "Sacred to the memory of Ann, wife of Robert Smith, of Atherstone, and formerly of Birmingham; she died the 19th of October, 1777, in the 62^d year of her age. Catherine their daughter died the 17th of August, 1755, in her infancy.

"Also of Robert Smith, husband of the above Ann, died October 25, 1779, aged 66 years."

11. "In memory of Edward Ebdell; he departed this life the 12th of June, 1785, aged 16 years.

Boast not, Reader, of thy might,
I was well at noon and dead at night."

12. Rebecca, daughter of Edward and Deborah Ebdell, who died April the 23, 1752."

On the back:

"Happy the babe, who, privileg'd by fate
To shorter labour, and a lighter weight,
Receiv'd but yesterday the act of breath,
Order'd to-morrow to return to death."

13. "Here lies the body of Elizabeth, wife of Nathaniel Smart, and daughter of Richard Lucas, gent. by Rebecca his wife; she departed this life August the 10th, in the year of our Lord 1767."

14. "Here lieth the mortal remains of Elizabeth Barns, wife of Thomas Barns, of Ansley; she departed this life February the 13th, 1771, in the 39th year of her age.

A loving wife and tender parent."

15. "Here lieth the body of Edward Jordan; he departed this life November the 19th, 1787, aged 37 years."

16. "*The dead shall be raised incorruptible.*"

"To the memory of Sarah, the daughter of ——— Andrews, of Whitechurch in Shropshire, and widow of Roger Hickson, who was born 1714, and died the 13th of March, 1781. She came into service as house-keeper at Ansley-Hall in 1747, which she quitted on her marriage, the 29th of September, 1749; and reassumed on the 5th of March, 1760, after her husband's death, and continued in it till within a short time of her death.

John Ludford, Esq; whom she appointed her executor, caused this to be erected 1786."

17. "To the memory of Elizabeth, the daughter of Philip Long and Ann his wife (daughter of George Clare, late of Atherstone, gent.) who was born the 11th of September, 1723, at Wrexham in Denbighshire, and died the 10th of July, 1783. She came into service at Ansley-Hall, on the 26th of September, 1750, and continued therein to her death. John Ludford, Esq. her Executor, and whom she nursed in his infancy, caused this to be erected, 1789."

18. "John, eldest son of Charles and Elizabeth Nixon, born the 11th of June, 1788, died the 18th of January, 1789."

* * P. *151. N° 1. The marble grave-stone is gone; but the brass plate is now in the library at Ansley-Hall.

N° 2. is partially lost; the rest in the South window of the old chancel.

P. *152. N° 5. entirely gone, stone and all.

P. *154. N° 12 and 14. gone as the title expresses.

Plate XV. Figures N° 1, 2, and 4, gone; N° 3 now in the South window of the old chancel above-mentioned, p. 135.

Besides the charities above mentioned, it appears from the donation return, made according to Act of Parliament on the 28th of September, 1786, there are the following, viz. Saint John Twycrofs, heretofore vicar of Ansley (prior to the year 1606) gave 20 marks to be laid out in the purchase of land, the yearly produce of which was to be expended as follows: one moiety or half part to be distributed amongst the poor of Ansley yearly, by the trustees, within eight days of Christmas or Easter; the other moiety in amending and repairing the highways most needful to be repaired; which sum being increased by the parish to £.17. was layed out in the purchase of an estate, now rented at £.10. *per ann.*

Shakespear also bequeathed the sum of £.3. at what time is unknown: the interest to be given yearly to the poor of Ansley in bread.

The sum of 6*s.* 8*d.* yearly was also charged upon a small cottage and croft, late in the occupation of George Izon, to find bell-ropes for the church-bells; but by whom is not now known; which cottage and croft, about 1765, was purchased of the parish by the late John Ludford, Esq. for £.30; which, together with Shakespear's and Oughton's gifts, as above mentioned, was expended in rebuilding the poor's houses, and the income is now paid by the overseers of the poor.

The trustees of all the above charities (except Mr. Stratford's) at the time of the donation returns were,

John Ludford, Esq.
John Barber,
Thomas Cheshire,
Richard Harrison,

John Wagstaff,
John Johnson,
William Topp,
Robert Harrison.

The moiety of Mr. Twycrofs's estate, aided by a considerable share of the income of Mr. Perkins's, has, since the year 1743, been given to the poor inhabitants of Ansley annually upon St. Thomas's-day, at Ansley-Hall; and the remainder of the rent of Mr. Perkins's estate is expended in paying surgeons' bills, buying cloathing for the poor, and giving them other occasional relief at the discretion of the trustees.

The poors rates of Ansley, as in most other places, have lately encreased very much. In the year 1734, they amounted only to 12 fixpenny levies of about £.3. each; in the year 1760, 24 levies were granted; in 1780, 48; and in 1783, 1784, and 1785, the three years returned, according to the Act of Parliament before mentioned, 72 each, being £.217. 10s. in each year; at which rate they have generally continued since.

The land-tax charged upon this parish is £.175. 12s. 5d. annually.

Since the account given on p. 136, there has been another more ancient inscription discovered upon the centre of the beam which supports the roof over the Saxon arch, mentioned p. 135, viz. "1633, T. S.—C. S." There are on the sides of this inscription above the arch, two atchievements of the late John Ludford, Esq. and Mrs. Ludford, viz. Quarterly, Ludford and Bracebridge, Azure, a chevron between 3 boars heads, Or, and vaire, Argent and Sable, a fesse Gules, impaling Newdigate, Gules, 3 lions gambes rased Argent; that on the North side has also the Ludford crest, a boar's head coupé, Or, on a wreath.

The churchwardens in 1716 were John Griffin and John Harison; in 1786, Thomas Atkins and John Archer. See p. 135.

Extracted

Extracted from the second Old Parish Register.

Jan. 25, 1747. On Monday last died at Polesworth, aged 77, the Rev. Mr. Cotterell, vicar of that place. It would be injustice to the memory of so valuable a person, not to mention, upon this occasion, that his neighbourhood has lost a most agreeable companion, a sound divine, and a primitive Christian. He was a man of unwearied application to the business of his function, of great hospitality and munificence, of strict justice and unbiassed integrity; an affectionate husband, an indulgent parent, a kind relation, a worthy master, a sincere friend, a father to the poor—in every part of his conduct exemplary and great: but what eminently distinguished him, was a peculiar faculty of reasoning upon all points of learning, and particularly upon the doctrines of the Christian Religion, which he defended with such becoming and apostolical zeal, and withal, with such clear and persuasive eloquence, as rendered him one of the most shining ornaments of his profession, and the delight of all who had the happiness of his conversation and acquaintance. His virtues had no alloy of austere pride or affectation; but, on the contrary, all the heightening and improvement which they could receive from the greatest humility, courtesy, politeness, and sweetness of disposition. He died beloved, honoured, and lamented by all who knew him.

N. B. He was above 30 years vicar of Ansley, and a great benefactor to the house, garden, and glebe; and removed from hence to Polesworth about A. D. 1727.

Moses Cotterell, LL. D. only son of the above worthy father, was instituted to the vicarage of Ansley, July 19, 1771; and was buried in the vault under the chancel, March 7, 1774, by leave of the late John Ludford, Esq.

ANSLEY

ANSLEY CHURCH.

Patroni Vicariæ.

Abbatiffa et conventus de Polesworth.

D. Phillippus de Somerville hac vice.

Abbatiffa et conventus de Polesworth.

Tho. Cope de Polesworth ratione conceff.
 abbatiffæ et conventus de Polesworth.
 Philip. et Maria R. et Regina.

Elizabetha R. Angl.

Rich. Chamberlain, arm.
 Rex.

Incumbentes, & tempora institutionis.

Dom. Nicholaus.

D. Rad de Thamworth, cap. an. 1248.

Roger de Eton cap.

John fil. Ric. de Pollesworth x cal. Mart.
 1315, vacat' par mort' Rogeri de Eton
 die domin. proxime post fest' S'ti Hil-
 larii.²

Johannes de Warton cap. 111 cal. Oët.
 1349. (v. p. r. Ric. le Graunger.)³

Tho. Fraunceys pbr. xix Jan. 1430.⁴

Henry Pynson pbr. xxvi Feb. 1430.
 v. p. r. Thom. Fraunceys.⁵

Will. Haghmond (Rr. de Rothying Plum-
 bea Lond. dioc.) 111 Dec. 1440. per-
 mut. cum Henr. Pynson.⁶

Walter Styrton pbr. xi Mart. 1444.⁷

Johan. Oredakyr cap. iv Jul. 1481. v.
 p. r. Walt. Styrton.⁸

D. Edward. Bower xx Junii, 1543, v.
 p. m. Johan. Twycrofs.⁹

Thomas Wilfon cler. vii Nov. 1554, v.
 p. r. Georgii Chapman.¹⁰

Henr. Hondys cler. xv Jul. 1557.¹¹

Robert Coope cler. xii Jul. 1561, [v. p. r.
 H. Hondys] postea deprivatus.¹²

Thomas Arnfeild cler. xxvii Jul. 1574.¹³Rob. Cope ii Mart. 1575.¹⁴Will. Foxe cler. xxii Dec. 1591.¹⁵Jac. Bush cler. x Junii, 1600.¹⁶

Francis Bacon, A. M. xiii Sept. 1625.

Francis Bacon, xiv Jan. 1638, ob.
 1682 *.¹⁷

Samuel Garmiton cler. xi Maii, 1682.¹⁷

* In the parish register I find the following note :

This book was returned by William Wilfon late register of Ansley to me Francis Bacon vicar of Anteley, April 24, 1661. This William Wilfon had acted as register from the act's taking place by which the late vicar was dispossessed.

¹ Ex autog. pen. dec. et capit. Lichf.² Langton. f. 40. a.³ Northb. f. 51. a.⁴ Heyw. f. 25. b.⁵ Ib.⁶ Ib. f. 39. a.⁷ Ib. f. 43. a.⁸ Hales, f. 29. a.⁹ Sampf. f. 40. b.¹⁰ Sampf. et B. f. 8. b.¹¹ Ib. f. 10. a.¹² Ib. f. 30. a.¹³ Ib. f. 45. b.¹⁴ Ib. f. 46. b.¹⁵ Overton bund. E.¹⁶ Overton bund. C.¹⁷ Offic. Prim.

Ricardus Newdigate.	Robert Waldron cler. A. M. xvi Nov. 1682. ¹⁸
Rex.	Robert Waldron cler. A. M. xvii Nov. 1682.
Rex et Regina.	Joh. Robinson cler. A. M. viii Apr. 1690, per cess. Rob. Waldron. Moses Cotterell cler. A. M. iv Junii, 1694, per cess. Joh. Robinson.
Rex.	Will. Nelson cl. Nov. 1727, per cess. Moses Cotterell. Thomas Ebdell cl. Oct. 1731, per mort. Will. Nelson. Thomas Ebdell cl. Dec. 2, 1759, per mort. Thom. Ebdell. Moses Cotterell, LL.D. July 19, 1771, per mort. Thom. Ebdell. Hen. Homer cl. M. A. Mar. 1774, per mort. Mosi Cotterell. Jof. Hutchins cl. B. A. 14 Maii, 1779, per cess. Hen. Homer.

¹⁸ Cart. Sol.

A Terrier of the profits belonging to the Vicarage of Ansfley, in the County of Warwick and Dioceſe of Litchfield and Coventry, Auguſt 12, 1775.

The parſonage-houſe, with a barn and ſtables, fold-yard, and garden, about 3 roods.

Church-yard about one acre. N. B. a ſmall bit added thereto for convenience of acceſs to water, is rented of John Ludford, Eſq. by the vicar.

Three cloſes of paſture, near to or adjoining the houſe, about 7 acres.

Three other cloſes of arable and paſture, called the Three Fields, lying Weſt of the houſe, about 14 acres.

The tythe-hay of two meadows near the houſe, one called the Izards, the other Oughton's Meadows.

One fifth part of all the tythes of corn and grain throughout the pariſh, brought home to the vicar by the impropiator.

Payments yearly on the 12th of Auguſt, in lieu of ſmall tythes, called Lammas-dues, amounting to upwards of £24. *per* year.

Surplice fees: marriages by bands 4*s.* 6*d.*; by liſenſe 5*s.*; burials 1*s.*; churching 4*d.*; Eaſter offerings 4*d.* *per* houſe.

Clerk's wages £.1. 10*s.* *per* year, paid by levy; Eaſter dues 4*d.* *per* houſe; marriages by banns 1*s.*; by liſenſe 2*s.* 6*d.*; burials 2*s.*

Signed, HENRY HOMER, Vicar.

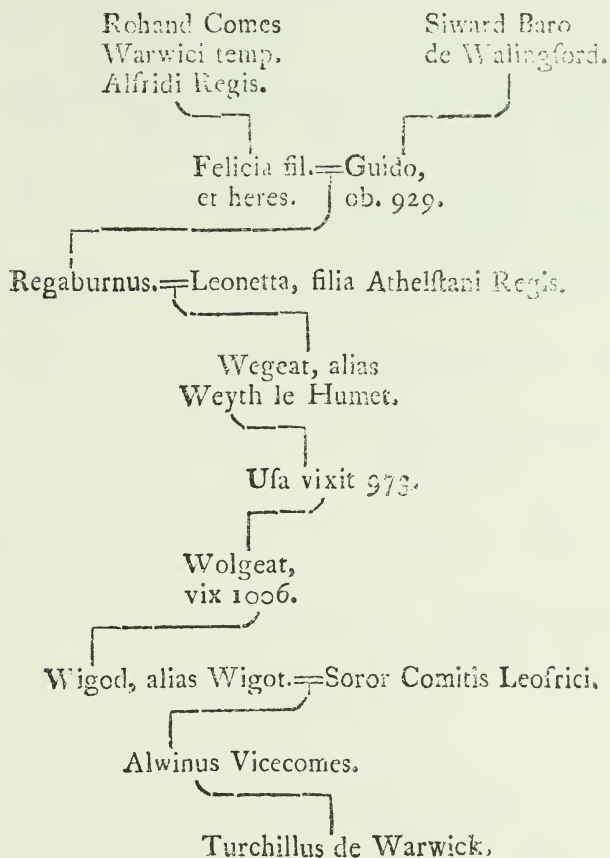
JOHN ARCHER, }
JOHN JOHNSON, } Churchwardens.

N. B. A Terrier verbatim with the above was delivered into the biſhop's court at Coleſhill, July 3, 1779, and alſo 1783.

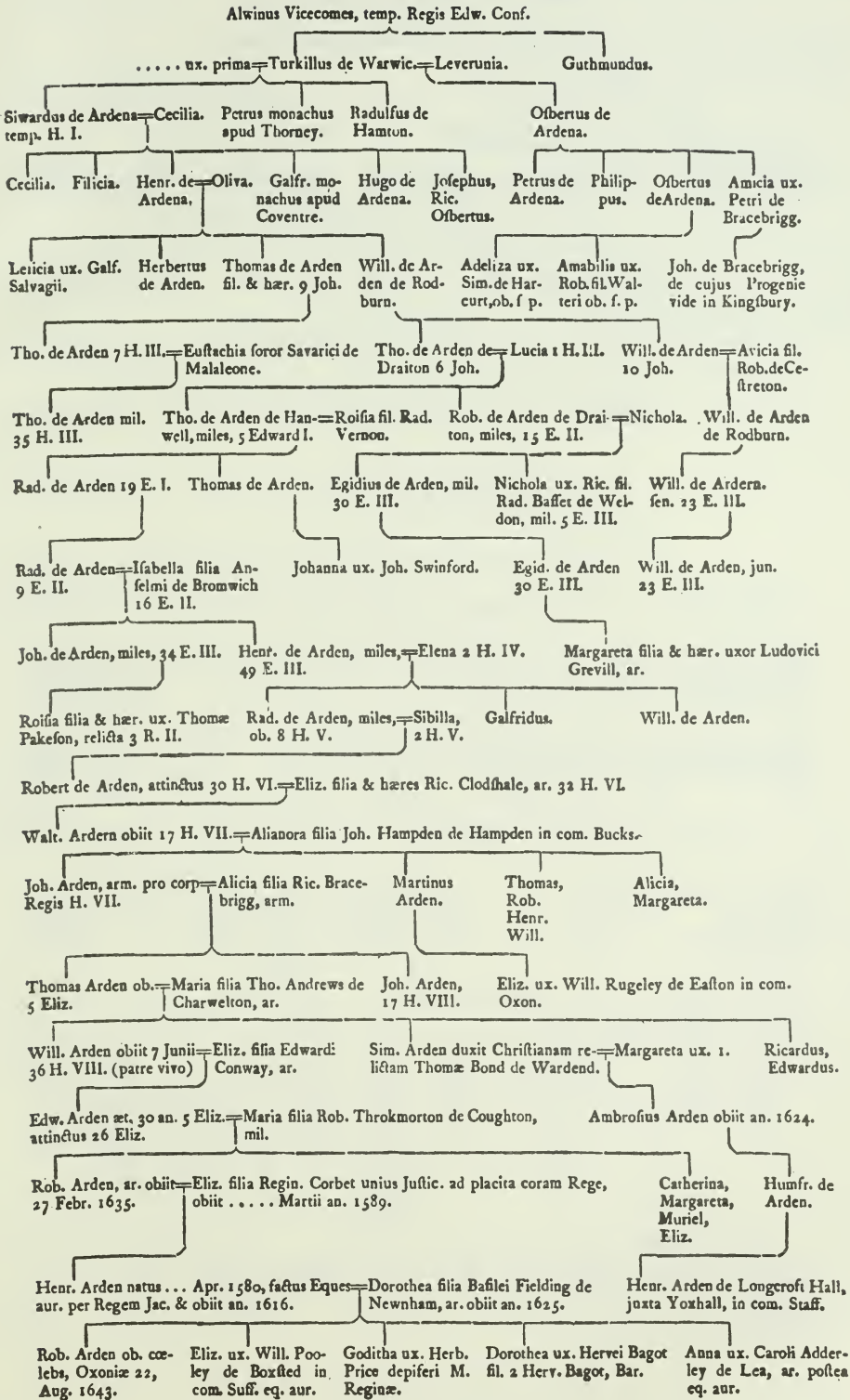
Signed, J. HUTCHINS, Vicar.

THOMAS ATKINS, }
JOHN ARCHER, } Churchwardens.

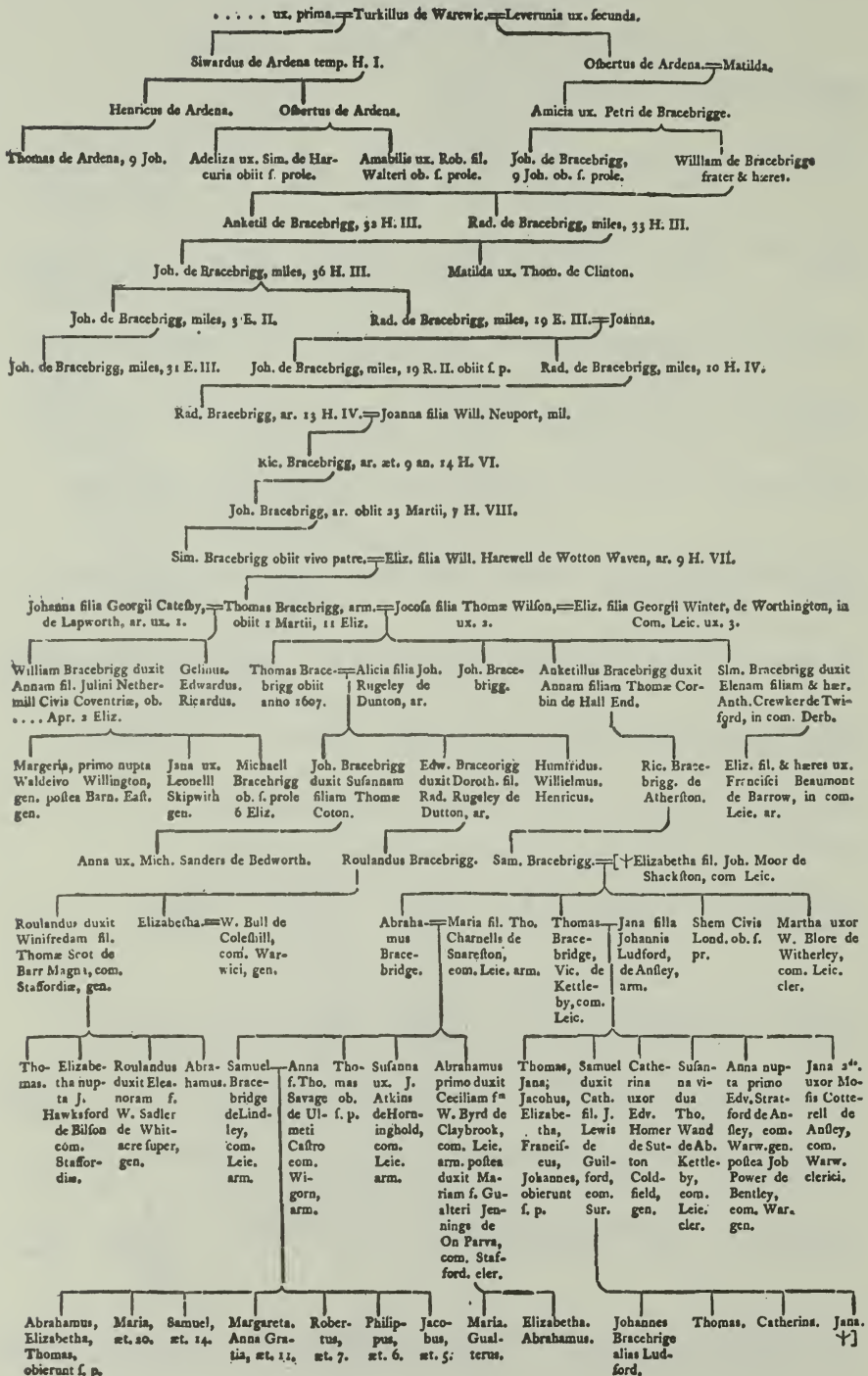
Pedigree of G U Y.

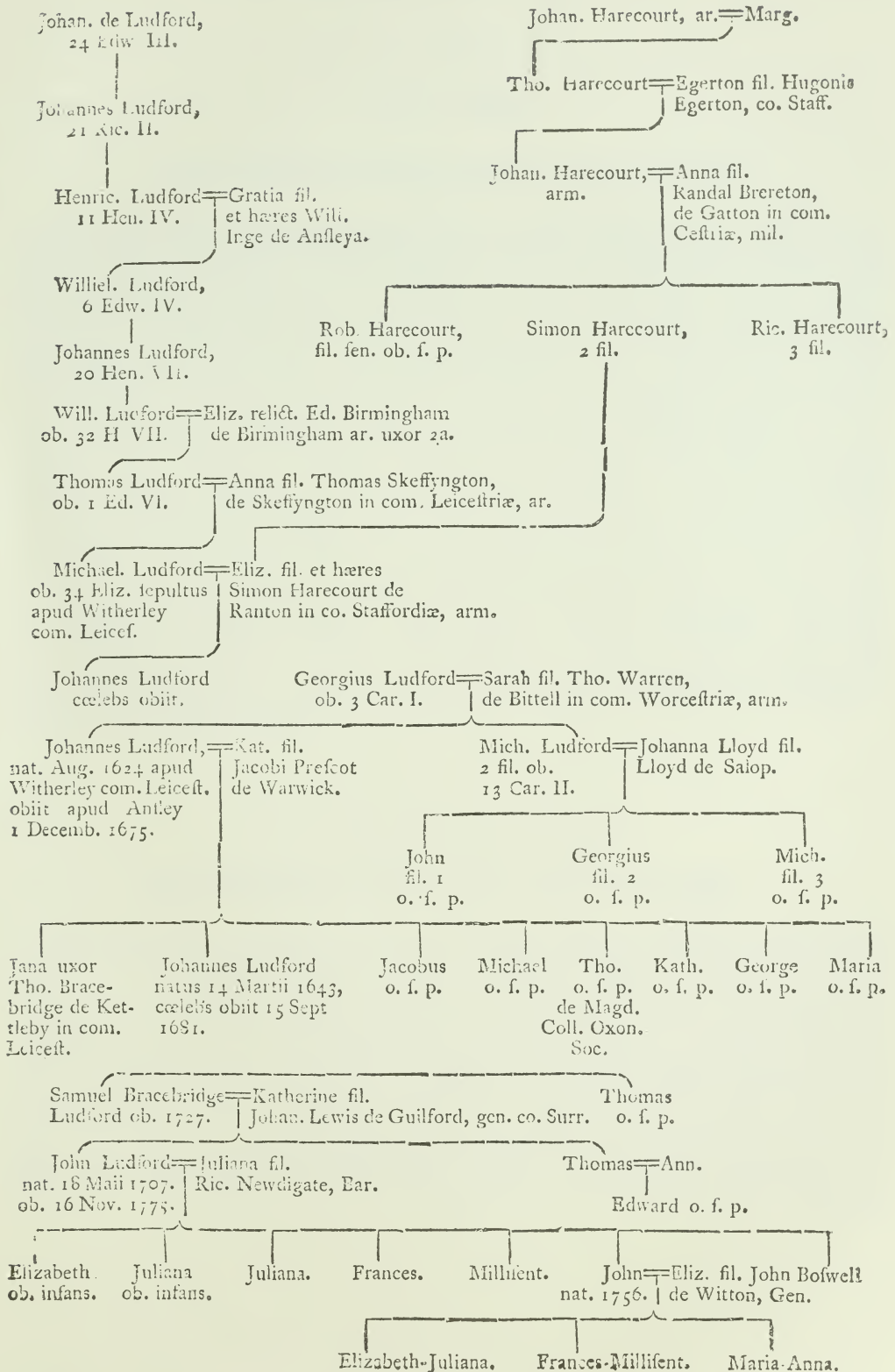


Pedigree of ARDEN.



Pedigree of BRACEBRIDGE.





Nº 1. Ansley.

Carta Willielmi de Hardredeshull, tempore Hen. III.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Wills de Hardredeshull dedi, concessi, et presenti carta mea confirmavi Waltero de Ansley clerico, pro homagio et servicio suo, illa dua essarta in Ansley que idem Walterus habuit et essartavit p cessionem dñi Radulphi de Hardy quando fuit in custodia sua, que dicta essarta continet septem acras terre, et terram illā quam Wills Le Roar essartavit tempore predicti Radulphi, que continet unā acram terre cum omnibus p̄tinentiis suis. Habendā et tenendam eidem Waltero et heredibus suis de me et heredibus meis libere et quiete, pacifice et hereditarie, cū omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus infra villam et extra, reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis predictus Walterus et heredes sui octo denarios et quatuor sagittas ad tres terminos anni, scil' ad Pascale Domini quatuor denarios, ad Pentacostam quatuor sagittas, et ad Natalem Sancti Johannis Baptist' quatuor denarios, pro omni servicio seculari; et ego predict' Wills et heredes mei totam predictam terram cum p̄tinent' suis sicut predictum est predicto Waltero et heredibus contra omnes gentes p̄ predicto servicio warantizabimus. Et quia volo quod hec mea donatio stabilis et inconcussa remaneat in ppetuum eam sigilli mei munimine roboravi. Hiis testibus, Hugo' de Mancester, Hugo' de Cuilli, Wilto de Basevill, Henric' de Lilleburne, Hugo' de Lilleburne fil' suo, Ingenulpho Le Despenfer, Henric' de Lilleburne, juniore, Roberto de Caldecote, Radulpho de Packinton, Henrico Le Despenfer, Gervasio de Stockeford, et aliis.

N. B. The seal is gone.

Nº 2. Hartshill, 24 Edw. I. 1296.

Carta Willielmi de Harderdesull, prefat' Johann' filii.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Wills filius Johan' de Harderdesull dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Henrico Ynge, pro homagio et servicio suo, et pro triginta solid' quos mihi dedit in manibus, tres acras terre in common' de Wasto meo in Boso de Hardredeshull, habend' et tenend' sibi et heredibus suis et assignatis suis de me et heredibus meis et assignatis meis cum omnibus p̄tinentiis libere et quiete pacifice et heriditarie in ppetuum, reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis duodecim denarios ad duos anni terminos, videl' ad Pascam sex denarios, ad festum S̄ti Michaelis sex denarios, pro omni servicio exactato et demandato, salvo forinfeco servicio dict' terre p̄tinent'. Et ego Wills et heredes mei dictos tres acras terre cū p̄tinentiis dict' Henrico et heredibus et assignatis suis p̄

T

predict'

predict' scriptum contra omnes homines warantizabimus, acquietabimus, et defendemus. Si ita contingat quod Carbo Maris super terram dict' Henrici inveniant, quod ego Wills et heredes nostri fodere faciamus dictā carbonem ad voluntatem nostr', et dicto Henrico et heredibus et assignatis suis bonam et plenam restitution' alibi in manerio de Hardredeshul faciamus. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testib' Ricard' le Pleydur, Wills Brian, Henric' le Bret, Ricard' de Ricardole Scot, Robert' Ynge, Henrico le Boteler.

The seal a lion rampant.

N. B. He afterwards used a shield of arms, viz. a cross enrailed with a martlet in the first quarter, to which Burton adds a baton.

N° 3. Anfleý.

Carta predicti Willielmi de Hardehull.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Wills filius Johāns de Hardehul dedi et concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Roberto Ynge, pro homagio et servicio suo, et pro triginta solidos quos mihi dedit in manibus, duas acras et unam rodam terre cum p̄tinentiis de vasto meo de Bircheley, habend' et tenend' sibi et heredibus suis et assignatis suis de me et heredibus meis vel assignat' meis cum omnib' p̄tinentiis libere et quiete, pacifice, et hereditarie in ppetuum, reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis novem denarios ad duos anni terminos, videlicet ad Pascam quatuor denarios et unum obolum, et ad festum Sōorum Apost' quatuor denarios et unum obolum pro omni servicio . . . exactato et demandato, salvo forinfeco servicio de dict' terra p̄tinent'. Et ego Wills et heredes mei dictas duas acras et unam rodam terre cū p̄tinentiis dicto Roberto, heredibus et assignat' p̄ predict' scriptum contra omnes homines warrantizabimus, acquietabimus, et defendemus.

Et si ita contingat quod Carbo Maris super dict' terram dicti Roberti inveniant, quod ego Wills et heredes mei fodere faciamus dictam carbonem ad voluntatem nostram, et dicto Roberto et heredibus vel assignatis suis bonam et plenam restitutionem alibi in manerio de Hardredeshul faciamus. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto sigillū meū apposui. Hiis testibus, Ricard' le Pleydur, Wills Bryan.

N. B. The seal is cut off, and on the back of the deed is the following indorsement, viz.

Mem'. Qđ Walterū Colepeper armig' dñs de Hardreshul cartam sigillat' sibi die Lune vicesimo quarto die Octob. a° Henr' Sexti xxxvi°. Penes Willm Ludferde filiū Henr' Ludferde de Ansele.

N^o 4. Ainsly.

Carta Johannis de Hardreshull, 13 Edw. II.

Pateat universis p^r presentes me Johaⁿm de Hardreshull militem concessisse p^r me et hered' meis, quod Henric' le Bret de Aneflewe et hered' sui licite et libere possunt includere et inclausum tenere sibi et hered' suis illam viam subtus domum suam que vocat' Brettes Lone, videlicet a cornerio sarduns sui usq' Hunettes stile, et illam viam fossare, et in eadem arbores plantare, domos edificare, et comodum suum inde facere pro voluntate sua, absq' aliqua contradic^tione vel impedimento mei vel heredū meorum in ppetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, dño Petro de Lymefy et Ricardo de Lymefy militib', Sacro de Rochford, Philippo de Hardreshull, Henrico de Lyle, Willielmo Scot, Ricardo de Stanerton, Willmo de Felde, et aliis. Dat' apud Aneflewe die Sabat' prox' post festū sanctor' Tiburtii et Valeriani, anno regni reg' Edwardi fil' regis Edwardi terciodecimo.

A small oval seal with his arms, a chevron betwixt ten martlets, surmounted with a helmet ornamented.

N^o 5. Ainsley.

Carta Johannis de Hardehull, 24 Edw. III.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes de Hardehull miles dñs de Hardehull et Ansteley dedi, concessi, et hac present' carta mea confirmavi Ricardo fil' Rog' Valle de Wychaker et Agneti uxori sue totum illum messuagium et omnes terras et tenementa cum omnibus suis p^rinent' quod et que Johan' Gybones quondam de me tenuit in villa de Ansteley. Habend' et tenend' totum predictū messuagium et omnes predictæ terræ et tenementa, cum omnibus suis p^rinentiis, Ricardo et Agneti uxori suo et heredibus de corpore ipsius legitime procreat', de me, hered' vel assignatis meis, libere, quiete, bene, et in pace. Reddendo inde annuatim mihi heredes vel assignatis meis sex solidos argenti ad quatuor anni terminos in villa de Ansteley usuales constitut' p^r equales portiones pro omnibus serviciis. Et ego predict' Johannes de Hardehull miles et heredes mea totum predict' messuagias et omnes predictas terras et tenementa, cum omnibus suis p^rinentiis, predicto Ricardo et Agnet' uxori sue et heredib' de corpore predicto rite et legitime procreat' contra omnes gentes warantizabimus. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillū meum apposui; hiis testibus, Ricardo de Rarton, Henrico Inge, Johanni Scott, Gilberto de Holbach, Johanne de le Viberes de Ansteley et aliis. Dat' apud Ansteley die in fest' S^ti Martin episcop' anno regni reg' Edwardi tertii post conquest. vicesimo quarto.

The seal larger than the preceding, the knight on horseback with his shield of arms, and his horse caparisoned with the same.

Nº 6. Ansley.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Wills Brian dom' serviens de Hardreshull dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Willo fil' Rob' de Scot de Anesteley clerico, filiolo meo, ad se promovend' et ad scholas excedend', unã cultrã terre in villa de Anesteley q̃d Anglice vocat' Cruehanc, sicut fossat' et sepib' circumduct' jacet infra cultra terre Henrici Synge et altam viam quod de Anasteley versus Byrchel ducit Habend' et tenend' de me et de heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis, ut unicuiq' dare, vendere, legare, vel aliquo modo assignare voluit in sanitate vel in egritudine, exceptis capitalib' dñnis, viris religiosiis, et Judeis, adeo libere, et quiete, integre, hereditarie, in ppetuũ, sicut ego eam tenui, secundam tenorẽ carte quam a dicto Waltero clerico habui. Volo et concedo pro me et pro heredibus meis predict' Willo filiolo meo et heredibus suis vel suis assignat' in ppetũ excambiũ toti predict' cultri in longitudine vel latitudine si necesse fuit sicut carta testat' quam a dicto Waltero clerico habui, reddend' inde annuat' mihi et heredibus meis vel meis assignatis duas sagittas barbatas sine fleechis ad Pentecostã, pro omnibus serviciis secularibus, wardis, releviis, maritagiiis, auxiliis, scutagiis, sectis, cuicunque curie hundredi, et pro aliis demand' secularib' quod aliquo modo exigi poterunt.

Et ego et predict' Wills Brian et hered' mei totam predict' cultrã terre cũ suis ptinent', et excambium si opus fuerit, predict' Willo filiolo meo, et heredibus suis, vel suis assignatis per predict' serviciũ, sicut predict' est contra omnes homines et feminas in perpetuum warantizab', acquietab', et defendemus. Et ut hec autẽ mea donacio concessio et carta mea confirmata, rata, et stabili in ppetũ remaneat, huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus: Ricardo de Stanton de Anesteley, Henrico Synge de eadem, Willo le Boteler de eadem, Willo Bret de eadem, Willo forestario de eadem, Gervasio de Stockyford cleric', et aliis.

N^o 7. Ansley.

Noverint universi, per presentes, me Alexandrum Culpeper, arm. feofasse, ordinasse, constituisse, locoque meo possuisse, dilectos mihi in Christo Hugonem Congelton & Thomam Adderston meos veros & legitimos attornatos, conjunctim & divisim, ad intrandum pro me, vice et nomine meo, in omnia illa duo campā sive crofta, quorum unus vocatur Ansteley hey, quod Johannes Ludford, gen. modo occupat, & aliud campum vocatum Oxhey, quod Johes Adderston sen^r nuper occupavit & tenuit ad firmam, & predicta campā sive crofta jacentes & existentes in Ansteley, in com. Warwici, necnon in omnia illa terras & tenementa vocat' le Hal Grounds in Ansteley predicta, quæ prædictus John Adderston nuper occupavit & tenuit ad firmam, ac etiam in omnia illas terras & tenementa mea jacentes & existentes in Radclyf, in com. Leycest', cum suis pertinentiis, ac possessionem & seizinam iade pro me, vice et nomine meo, capiendum; & omnem & omnimodum personam expellendum & amovendum; & post ingressum sic inde captum & habitum, ad deliberandum inde pro me, vice & nomine meo, plenam & pacificam possessionem & seizinam præfato Johi Ludford, hæredibus & assignatis suis, secundum formam & effectum cujusdam chartæ indentatæ inde præfato Johis Ludford factam; ratum & gratum habentem & habiturum totum & quidquid dicti attornati mei fecerint, seu eorum alter faciat in premissis, prout ibidem personaliter interesset, p^r presentes.

In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto meo sigillum meum apposui, dat^o decimo quinto die Martii, anno regni regis Henrici Septimi vicefimo.

The seal, Hardreshill impaling Culpepper is engraved, Plate VII. fig. 4.

N 8. Ansley.

Grant from Sir Thomas Colpeper, Knight, to Henry Lutteford, of certain Closes of Pasture Land in Ansteley, called Ley Lawndes and Monewod Hall Felde, and a piece of Land between Ansteley-Hall-Gate and the Drypitt, and a Garden called Thereue Laughton. Dated at Ansteley, the Feast of St. Margaret, the 12th of Henry IV.

Hec indentura facta testat^r q̄ ego dñs Thomas Colpeper miles dñs de Hardreshill dedi, concessi, et hac p̄senti carta mea confirmavi Henrico Lutteford de Ansteley unam pasturam in Ansteley predict', vocat' Ley Lawndes, int' boscum vocat' Alstonestray ex una pte, et viam vocat' *Thenefty-Way* ex alia pte, quam quidem pasturam Johannes Cartwright quondam tenuit; et aliam pasturam vocat' Monewod-Hall-Felde, jacentem int' Pankmilne ex una pte et boscum vocatum Monewod ex alta pte, quam quidem pasturam Johannes Steel quondam tenuit; ac etiam aliam peciam terr' jacentem in eadem villa int' Ansteley-Hall-Gate ex una pte et le Drypitt ex

altera pte, cum uno gardino vocat' Thereue Laughton, jacentem inter cimiſm de Anſteley p̄dca et viam que ducit verſus Atherſton; ſind' et tenend' om̄s p̄dictas paſturas cum omnibus p̄tin' p̄fat' Henrico, heredibus et assignat' ſuis, in perpet', reddendo inde annuatim michi p̄fato Thome militi, her' et assign' meis, viginti quatuor ſolid', decem denar', legalis monete, ad quatuor anni t̄minos in Anſteley uſuales p̄ equales portiones, imp̄ſion p̄ omnib' jurib', exactione et demanda quocunq; de nobis exigenda. Et ſi contingat p̄dcm annualem redd' aretro in parte vel in toto ad aliquem terminum p̄dict', tunc bene liceat michi p̄fato Thome, her' et assign' meis, in omnibus p̄dic' paſtur cum p̄tin' diſtringere, et diſtriſtiones abducere et retinere quouſque inde plenar' fuerit ſatisfaciend'. Et ego p̄ſatus Thomas et heredes mei o'es p̄dict' paſtur' cum omnib' ſuis p̄tin' p̄fato Henrico hered' et assignat' ſuis contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus et defendemus imperpetuum. In cujus rei teſtimon' p̄ſenti carte mee indentate ſigill' huic appoſui. 'Dat' ap̄ Anſteley in feſto S̄c̄e Margarete anno regni Henrici quarti poſt Conqueſtum duodecimo.

The ſeal, quarterly Hardreſhull and Colepepper is engraved, Plate VII. fig. 2.

N^o 9. Anſley.

Sciunt p̄ſentes et futuri q̄d ego Johes de Hardreſhul miles dedi, conceſſi, et hac p̄ſenti carta mea confirmavi Robto Scot, filio Willi Scot, de Anſteley, totā illā t̄ram et morā, cū viis, ſemit', cū toto prato, boſco, et meſſuag', que tenet in vill' et in teritorio de Anſteley et Hardreſhul, cū omnib' p̄tin' ſuis, ſicut ſepib' et foſſat' includunt' cū libera com̄una in omnib' cōib' boſcis, locis, et paſturis quibuscunq; p̄ decē marc' argenti quas diſt' Robtus dedit pre manibus: Hend' & tenend' de me et heredibus meis, eidem Robto et heredib' libere, quiete, pacifice, integre, bene, et hereditarie, inperp̄m, reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis d̄cs Robtus & heredes ſui treſdecem ſolid' argenti tantū ad quatuor anni t̄minos, viz. ad natalem Dñi quadraginta denar', ad Paſch' quadraginta denar', ad nativitatē S̄ci Johis Bāpte quadraginta denar', et ad feſtū S̄ci Michis quadraginta denar', p̄ oib' ſviciis ſecularibus, viz. heriott', ward', releuiis, homagiis, maritagiiis, ſcutagiis, ſect' cur', & p̄ omnibus aliis exacōnib', ſectibus, & demand'. Et ego d̄cs Johes & heredes mei om̄ia p̄nōiata ut ſup' ſcript' eſt d̄co Robto & heredibus ſuis contra omnes gentes warrantizabim', acquietabimus, & defendem' imp̄p̄m. Et ut hec mea donatio, conceſſio, & hujus carte confirmatio rata et ſtabilis in omnibus & firma p̄maneant, eidem carte ſigillū meū appoſui. Hiis teſtibus, Waltero Bretum, Petro Bretum, Hugo' de Lilleſne, Willo Brian, Henr' Inge de Anſteley, Willo Bret' de eadem, Willo Boteler de eadem, Willo Wodeward, cum multis aliis.

The ſeal, his arms. A ſhield in a ring or circle; Argent, a border of ten martlets Gules, is engraved, Plate VIII. fig. 2. being the ſame ſeal as that of the deed printed in page 147 of the Appendix.

N° 10. Ansley.

Norū sit omnib' clericis & laicis tam futuris quam p'sentib', qđ ego Wills filius Rob'ti de H'dresfull dñs de H'dresfull & Ansley dedi & cēcessi et hac p'senti carta mea cōfirmavi Siwardo dispensatori meo terram quam olim Johes fil' Tūbci tenuit, & quatuor ac's tē & dimidium de Udemore, curtilagium cum edificiis in vico eccl'ie de Ansley, jacen' int' regiam viam ducentem a portis aule usq' ad Nuters hethe ex pte Oriental' & fr̄as dominicales ex pte Austral'; tenend' de me & meis heredib' sibi & suis heredib' pro suo servicio libere & q̄ete ab om̄i servitio p'tinent' in & in om̄ib' aliis locis, reddend' inde annuatī mihi & heredib' meis quatuor gallinas in festo Nativitatis Dñi. In cuj' rei testimonium figill' mcū apposui. Hiis testib'; sēt, Hugon' filio Rob'ti, Willo, Hug', Willo filio Gulphi, Hugone filio ejus, Geynasso de Stockyngforde, cum multis aliis.

The seal, a knight in mail on horseback, with his sword drawn in his right hand, and a falcon on his left, is engraved, Plate VIII. fig. 1; see also p. 51.

N° 11. Ansley.

Wills fil' Rob'ti de Hardreshilla om̄ib' amicis & hōib' suis tā p'sentib' quam futuris sal'. Sciatis me dedisse & cēcessisse & hac p'senti carta cōfirmasse Warino de Bafevilla & Alicie uxori suo septē v̄gatas fr̄e ī Ansleia cū om̄ib' p'tinentiis ī libum maritagiū: hanc v̄o p'dictā fr̄a dedi p̄fato Warino & Alicie uxori suo & eor' heredib' ad tenendū de me & meis heredib' libe, q̄ete, & honorifice, cū om̄ib' lib'tatib' ad p'dictā fr̄a p'tinentib' in bosco & plano, ī p'tis & pascuis, in viis & semitis, in agris & molendinis, & in om̄ib' aliis lib'tatib', tenend' de me & meis heredib' ī perpetuū, salvo forinsfeco servitio. Si aut' p̄nominatā fr̄a p̄fato Warino & Alicie uxori suo warrantizare nō po'to, eis aliā fr̄a eque cōmodā escambiare curabo. Hiis test'. Hugone fil' Rob', Willo filio Ode . . . de Bafevilla; Henrico de Heskomaulla; Philippo de Besebi; Willo fil' Assulphi; Siwardo; Osb de Bassevill; Willo filio Walto de Bardenai; Hūfrido de Hechon; Johe filio Assulphi; & aliis multis.

The seal, a knight in mail on horseback, with his sword drawn in his right hand, and a falcon on his left, is engraved Plate VIII. fig. 1; see also p. 51.

N^o 12. Extract from the oldest Register of Ansley.

Compositio fact' inter abbatissam et conventum de Polesworth et vicarium de Ansley, ut sequitur.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos litere presentes pervenerint, magister Simon de Balydene, domini episcopi Coventr' et Lichfeldi official', salutem.

Quum quamplures vicarii ppetui in ecclesiis religiosorum per provinciam ministrant' minus habent sufficientem sustentacionem ad onus suum in divino officio portand': Ideo, ex auctoritate venerab' patris Cantuar' archiep' constituit' et ceteror' episc' provincial' decretum est, ut portiones eorum qui minus habent canonice emendant' et augmentent'. Cum vero nos, p legitimā taxationē et estimationē, et p sacrament' bonorum virorū et fide dignorum fidelitate facta pro certo recepimus, quod portio Rogeri vicarii ppetui de Ansley, consistens in minutis decimis et obventionib' ad altare spectantibus, taxata p sacramenta predictorum ad valentiam L solidor', minima est, et ad ipsius sustentationem insufficiens, etiam ipsi spectantes ad proprios usus monialium de Polesworth, q̄ taxata est in decimis bladi totius paroch' singulis annis et communibus ad valent' xxiiii marcarum: Nos, qui p dict' auctoritatē, necnon et auctoritate dñi nostr' Coventr' et Lichfeld' ep̄i, habito consilio viror' discretor', dictas taxationes et porciones concedent' predict' vicario quintā garbā decimæ bladi totius proventum in tota parochia de Ansley, in augmentum sue vicarie, assignavimus, & auctoritate dñi nři in plenaria et corporale institimus, ut ipse et successores sui vicarii in eadem ecclesia in futur' ministrant' possint in divino obsequio rationabiliter prout decet sustentari, quod ipsi vicar' quicumq' pro tempore fuerint quietabunt; in hoc concessum est, quod ad hospitium herrei abissē de Polesworth existent' in Ansley carriabunt oēs decimas garbar' de parochia de Ansley, et colligunt in campis, sumptibus abissē et convent', et in horreo, facta divisione eorundem in quinq' partes, vicarius p̄cipiat quintā partem. In cujus rei testimonium presenti scripto sigillum nostram apposuimus. Dat' apud Erbury, die Veneris xx post festum S̄ti Dionisii, anno Dñi MCCLXIV.

“ Compositionem hanc ideo hic inferui quia scriptum chartaceum (quod habui solum) ægrè potuit ad posteritatem dedi. F. BACON, V. Anslei, 1645.”

N^o 13. Extract from the oldest Register of Ansley, on the back of the leaf where the Composition is transcribed.

3^o Junii, 1649.

Com' Warr'.

In Rotulo compōm ministrorū de anno xv^{to} regin' Eliz' inter al' continetur ut sequitur.

Pencones pcelle nup' priorat' de Coventry.

S. de viſ. viii^{id}. de quadin pencone recept' de guardian' ecclie de Annesley exeun' de revercon' dce ecclie de Annesley p' licenc' sepeliend' mort' infra p'cincl' dce nup' priorat' p' annū solvend' ad fest' S^ci Michis Archi tantum.

S^m^a viſ. viii^{id}.

This record is mistaken; for the money ought to be charged upon Allesley.

Exam', p ABRAHAMUM BOUNE.

Com' Warr'.

In quodm libro compōm Thome Waight, receptoris gen' com' ejusd', coram Francisco Philips, arm', auditore, compertum existit.

Of the church-wardens of Alvesley.

Portio decim' ibm in compotis pencon' vi^{id}. viii^{id}. p' ann'.

viſ. viii^{id}.

A retro p' sex annis,

—

—

xl^{id}.

EXm' p ABRAHAMUM BOUNE.

These records were searched out, and heare inserted for the benefit of posterity of the parish of Ansley, if the like occasion shall hereafter happen; for the yearly pencon, with all the arrears, were by Mr. Robinson, receiver of the tenths, demanded as payable by the churchwardens of Anseley, being mistaken for Aufeley, or Alvesley.

FRANCIS BACON, Vic' ibm,

March 9, 1649.

When, in pursuance of the statute of 26 Geo. III. cap. 87. sect. 13. application was made for the purchase of the fee-farm rents in this parish of Ansley, the secretary of the commissioners was requested to transmit an account of all the fee-farm rents within this parish and manor; and he did accordingly send down a printed schedule of them, in which this rent of 6s. 8d. stands charged as payable by the church of Annesley, as it is therein called, though (as is before observed), it was never called by that name in any deeds or instruments whatsoever besides (see p. 143); and the purchase-money required for it was £.10. Upon which, every enquiry was made amongst the oldest inhabitants, without effect; and to the receiver of the county of Warwick, who said the rent was paid to Michaelmas, 1787, and the receipt given for Annesley, though he did not know the persons by whom it was paid. And this entry in the register had then, and till now, escaped notice.

So that it still appears, that in the Crown Books the name of Annesley still stands instead of Aufeley, or Alvesley, near Coventry, by the churchwardens of which parish this rent is paid regularly, and probably has never been demanded from Ansley since the year 1649.

N° 14. The Communion Plate.

The communion plate at Ansley church consists of	ounces.
One chalice, or flagon, inscribed with a Glory and I.H.S. in the middle ; and on the foot I. L. Arm. D.D.D. 1748, ANSLEY ; weight	60
One salver, with a Glory and I. H. S. in the centre ; weight	18
One cup, with no inscription ; weight	12
One small salver, inscribed M. ROBERT . STRATFORD . DID . GIVE . TO . INLARGE . THIS . COUP . 3 . POUND . THEN . C . WARDENS . DANIEL . OUGHTON . THO . KENNON . 1619 ; weight	3
	93

Inscription upon Ansley Bells.

1st. M. H. R. C. H. R. E. T. H.

2d. FEAR . GOD . AND . HONOR . THE . KING . 669.

3d. BE . YT . KNOWNE . TO . ALL . THAT . DOTH . MEE . SEE .
THAT . NEWCOMBE . OF . LEICESTER . MADE . MEE . 1609.

The names of the churchwardens in 1633 were Thomas Shakespear and Chad Sadler. See p. 158.

A P P E N D I X.

N^o I. (Page 30.)

THE descent of the Hastings of Fillongley, afterwards barons Bergavenny and earls of Pembroke.

1. Walter (in Dugdale's Baronage, I. 574. *William*) de Hastings by the grant of Randolph de Meschines, was lord of Manceter and Oldbury, which Walter gave Manceter to Wakeline and Oldbury to the nuns there, as in the particular histories more at large appears. He was steward to Henry I. His son

2. Hugh married Erneburga daughter of Hugh de Flamenville.

3. William, steward to Henry II. married Margery, daughter to Roger Bigod earl of Norfolk. He left issue two sons Henry and William. Henry dying issueless was succeeded by his brother

4. William who died 10 Henry III. His son

5. Henry married Ada, fourth daughter to David earl of Huntingdon by Maud, one of the sisters and coheirs of Ranulph de Blundeville, the last earl of Chester of that name. He died 34 Henry III. His son

6. Henry married Joan, sister and heir to George de Cantalupe, baron de Bergavenny. He died 53 Henry III. His eldest son

7. John, now baron de Bergavenny, married Isabel, daughter of William, and sister to Adomar de Valence earl of Pembroke. He died 6 Edward II. His son

8. John married Julian, daughter and heir of Thomas de Leiburn, and died 18 Edward II. His son and heir

9. Laurence, 13 Edward III. being of full age was declared earl of Pembroke. He married Agnes daughter to Roger earl of Mortimer, earl of March, and died 22 Edward III. His son

10. John earl of Pembroke and baron Bergavenny, 43 Edward III. married Ann, daughter of Sir Walter Manny, knt. He entailed his estate on his cousin William Beauchamp, but leaving a son the entail did not take place. This son

11. John earl of Pembroke, &c. dying 13 Richard II. 1399, Reginald lord Grey his cousin succeeded to the honours and estate of the Hastings of his family.

12. At his death the fee of Manceter became the property of his second son John, to whom he had already given Barwell in Leicestershire; and of the said manor of Barwell, Manceter is now holden.

N° II and III. (Page 30 and 43.)

Charta Walteri de Hastings et uxoris ejus de Oldburi et Stiperhull.

“ SCIENT tam presentes quam futuri quod Walterius de Hastings cum uxore sua Athawis dedit et confirmavit jure perpetuo Deo et S^{to} Laurentio, et Ofannæ priorissæ, et omnibus sanctimonialibus sub ejus disciplina Christo militantibus, et in presentia Rogerii Coventriensis * episcopi, situm loci de Aldaburia et totam Stiperhullam in plano et in nemore usque ad medium valli ex parte Mangecestræ, et quandam partem nemoris ex futeft de Aldaburia usque ad torrentem qui venit de Hardreshulla et totam terram de Calve Croft et Birchesleiam, illam scilicet terram quæ jacet inter duas vias de Mereftret et Bircheleiaftret usque nemus Hugonis. His testibus,

Hugo de Hadreshulla.

Willielmus de Wellefburia.

Petrus sacerdos de Wiredela.

Willielmus sacerdos de S^{to} Martino, et multis aliis.”

Printed in Mon. Angl. I. 199. Ex autographo penes T. Corbin gen.

Confirmatio Rogeri Episcop’ Coventr’ chartæ Walteri Hastings.

Rogerus †, Dei gratia Coventriæ episcopus, omnibus, &c. Noverint tam presentes quam futuri Walterum de Hastings et Hadevisam uxorem ejus in mea presentia dedisse et concessisse et religioni et conversationi pauperum mulierum deputasse locum de Aldeberia cum omnibus suis pertinentiis ita quod nihil proprii juris vel dominii vel advocationis terrene inibi sibi retinuerint preter hoc quod eundem locum debent munire et protegere contra omnes importunitates ut suarum elymosinam. Eapropter volo et firmiter precipio ut locus ille in ea libertate jugitur perseverat quam Walterus et Hadevisa eidem annuerunt. Et ego eorum precibus eandem libertatem confirmavi et ratam et constantem fore statui. Si quis autem ausu temerario sciens hujus meæ confirmationis et testimonii tenorem predicti pauperis loci libertatem minuerit vel in aliquo turbaverit, aut manum laicalem vel potestatem terrenam in ejus possessiones excurrit, anathematis sententia dampnetur, et Dei maledictionem et beatorum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli incurrat. Valete.

* Not *Cestrensis* as in the Monasticon.

† Roger Clive elected 20 Henry I. 1129, died 15 Stephen 1149.

N° III*. (Page 43.)

Carta Hugonis fil' Ricardi.

Omnibus fidelibus sanctæ ecclesiæ Hugo filius Ricardi et uxor ejus Margareta in Christo salutem. Notum sit omnibus quod ego cum uxore mea et filiis meis concedo et confirmo in elemosinam jure perpetuo, pro anima patris et matris meæ, et pro anima patris et matris uxoris meæ, et omnium parentum meorum, quicquid Walterus de Hastings et uxor ejus Ethewis dederunt sanctimonialibus de Oldburia, sicut earum carta commemorat et testimonium perhibet; hoc est, totam Calvecroft scilicet illam terram quæ jacet inter duas vias de Mereftret et Bercheliaftret usque ad Nemus Hugonis per circuitum, et cætera omnia quæ sanctimoniales tenuerint et habuerint ex dono et consensu ipsius Walteri et uxoris ejus Ethawis. His testibus:

Margarita uxore Hugonis et filiis ejus.

Williellmô Jordano de S^{to} Edwardo.

Roberto de Tubervilla.

G. de Tutaburia.

Pagano de Stöpfort; et multis aliis qui hoc viderunt et audierunt.

Page 53.

Inquisitio facta an' regn' reg' Hen' fil' Johan' 28^m.

Gracia de Infula ten' 1. f. m. in Salebi et 40 s. in eadem; eadem Gracia ten' ibid. 1. f. m. de Petronilla de Croun, et eadem Petronilla de dno reg' in cap.

Gracia de Infula ten' 9. part' 1. f. m. de Willo Blanchard et idē Wills de Hon. de Lancaster. Et altera terra sua scil' 4 bovāt' pro inveniēdo un' servient' in Wallia ad pceptu dñi cu' Johan' Haech de vetero seffeament.

Gracia de Infula tenet 1. f. m. de Thoma de Scotiney et idē Thom' de dno reg' in cap. Ead' Gracia ten' ibid' 1. f. m. de Thoma de Gwyby et id' Thom' de dno rege in cap.

Gracia de Infula ten' 1. f. m. de feodis Tho' Ernby. Ead' Gracia ten' dimid' f. m. de Honore de Lancaster. Ead' Gracia ten' 22. part' f. m. de Hon' epif' Ebor'.

Willielmus de Hardreshull ten' 3^{tiā} part' 1. f. m. de com' de Arundel de vet' feoffamento.

Idem Willielmus ten' dimid' f. m. de com' de Lincoln' et ipse de dno reg'.

By an inquisition taken after 43 Henry III. we find that William de Hardreshull held lands of the king in capite in South Keesle, and the manor of Cuke-wald com. Lincoln.

N° IV (Page 44.)

Carta Walchelini de Mancestria.

Univerſis ſanctæ matris eccleſiæ filiis tam futuris quam preſentibus, Walchelinus de Manceſtria ſalutem. Sciant omnes tam futuri quam preſentes quod ego Walchelinus conceſſi et hac preſenti carta mea confirmavi Deo et S̄cæ Mariæ, et S̄cō Laurentio, et eccleſiæ S̄cī Edithæ de Polleſworth et ſanctimonialibus ibidem Deo ſervientibus, ſitum loci de Aldeburia et totam Stipereſhallam in plano et nemore uſque ad medium valli ex parte Maneceſtriæ, et quandam partem nemoris ex ſutheſt de Aldeberia uſque ad torrentem qui venit de Hardreſhulla, et totam terram de Chelvecroft et Birchleiam, ſcilicet illam terram quæ jacet inter duas vias de Mereſtret et Birchleieſtret uſque ad nemus Willielmi de Herdreſhulla par circuitum, pro ſalute animæ meæ et uxoris meæ et liberorum meorum et omnium anteceſſorum meorum, in liberam et quietam elemoſinam de me et de hæredibus meis jure perpetuo tenendam libere et quiete et honorificè abſque omni ſervicio ſeculari et conſuetudine et exactione et placitis et querelis. Nam ego et hæredes mei adquietabimus totam ſupradictam terram de toto forinſeco ſervitio. His teſtibus.

Rogero Candel Hou.
Gaufrido preſbytero.
Sivardo preſbytero.
Adam preſbytero.
Reginaldo clerico de Grendona.

Willielmus de Bromchot.
Richerio de Overtona et
Rogero fratre ejus.
Adam de Wellesburga.
Helia de Odeſtonas.
Jordano de Peneleia; et multis aliis.

N° *IV. (Page 51.)

NOTU' ſit omnib' clericis et laicis tam futuris quam preſentib' quod ego Will' filio Robti de H'drefull dominus de H'drefull et Anſteley dedi et conceſſi et hac preſenti carta mea affirmavi Siwardo diſpenſatori meo terram qm olim Jhes filius Roberti tenuit quatuor acras terræ et dimidiām de *udemore*, et unum curtilagium cum edificiis in vice ecclie de Anſteley jaçent' inter regiam viam ducentem a Sortis aule uſque ad Nuters hethe ex parte orientali et fr̄as dominicales ex parte aſtrali, tenend' de me et meis heredibus ſibi et ſuis heredibus pro ſuo ſervicio libere ac quiete ab omni ſervicio pertinenti in univer' in ſilvis quam in planis, in pcis ac in aquis in planis et in omnibus aliis locis, reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis quatuor gallinas in feſto nativitatis Domini: in cujus rei teſtimonium ſigillum meum appoſui. Hiis teſtibus, ſcilicet, Hugone filio Roberti, Williehmo Hugonis filio, Hugone filio ejus, Gervasio de Stockynforde, cum multis aliis.

N° Y. (Page 54.)

Harthill, 52 Hen. III. 1268.

Carta Johannis de Hardershull, qui fratri suo primogenito Roberto apud Evocesham interemptio successit.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes de Harderhull filius et heres dom' Willielmi de Harderhull dedi et concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi dom' Margarete relicte dom' Roberti quondam fratris mei, nōie cujusdam excambie, quadratam terram in villa de Keleley nostr' doti dict' Margarete pertinente, et totas terras et tenementa que Gilbertus Reyne natus meus tenuit in Harderhull, et totam terram quam Walterus Joy natus meus tenet in eadem villa, et totas terras et tenementa que Adam' Andrew, Robert' Joye, Robert' de Rosthing, Walterus fil' Petri, Isolda de la Sernere, Alicia de la Sernere, Gilbert' de la Sernere, Simon de la Grave, Thom' Payse, Gilbert' Dod, Hugo de la Fode, Richard' fil' Hugonis, Robert' le Runcere, Johan' fil' pred' Hugon' et Hugo faber, tenent in villa de Henesley, et ipsos omnes cum totis sequelis suis et catallis, videlicet toto tempore vite dict' Margarete. Insuper dedi et concessi, et hac presenti carta confirmavi, totum servitium, tam in redditibus quam in homagiis et omnibus aliis pertinentiis, in quibus Willielmus Lorian et Willielmus Woodward de me tenent in villa de Heinelleyce, exceptis duobus solidis annuatim redditus, quod dictus Willielmus Lorian solebat reddere Eddemundo de Watteford; et insuper dedi et concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi, dict' Margarete, molendinum meum de Hardereshull, ad percipiend' de eodem quadraginta solidos annuatim reddit' et ad deliband' si quod residuum fuit per manus dict' Margarete michi et heredibus meis, salva tamen dicto dom' Johanni libera multura; habend' et tenend' dict' dom' Margarete, de dicto domino Johanne vel ejus heredibus vel assignatis, totas terras et tenementa predicta, cum omnibus nativis predictis et liberis hominibus in wardis, relevis, escheatis, maritagis, et omnibus aliis quocunque modo accidere possunt ad predicta tenementa tam de liberis quam de nativis predict' toto tempore vite dict' Margarete sine aliqua coercone dict' dni Johan' heredum suorum vel assignatorum suorum. Per hanc autem donationem, concessionem, ac confirmationem, dicta Margareta dedit, concessit, et omnino quietum clamavit, ratione istius excambie, dicto domino Johanni, et ejus heredibus vel assignatis, totas terras et tenementa quas habuit in villa de North Kelesey nōie dotis. Et ego predict' Johannes et heredes mei vel assignati totas terras et tenementa predict' sicut predictum est dict' dom' Margarete toto tempore vite sue warrantizabimus, acquietabimus, et contra omnes homines usque ad tempus predictum defendemus.

In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripta in medium chirographi confirmat' presentes sigilla sua alternatim appoluerunt. Hiis testibus,

Willielmo Hodingsells,
Hugone de Lilleburn,
Rogerō de Rodla,

Andrew de Glee,
Rogerō de Attelerchee,
Simone de Sutechocha,
Waltero Clerico de Anstelee.

The seal, his arms; Argent a border of x martlets Gules.

N° VI. (Page 55.)

Carta Willielmi de Hardreshull de terra in Auesley temp' Edw' primi.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Willielmus filius Johannis de Hardeshull dedi, concessi &c. Roberto Ynge, pro homagio et servicio suo et pro triginta solidis quos mihi dedit &c. duas acras et unam rodam terre cum pertinentiis in vasto meo de Bircheley habend' &c. in perpetuum &c. reddendo inde annuatim mihi &c. novem denarios ad duos anni terminos, videlicet ad Pascam quatuor denarios et obolum et ad festum S'tor' Apostolorū quatuor denarios et unum obolum, cum omni servicio (salva forinfeco) demandata &c. Et si ita contingat quod Carbo Maris super dictam terram inveniant, quod ego Willielmus et heredes mei fodere faciamus dictam carbonem ad voluntatem nostram, et dicto Roberto et heredibus vel assignatibus suis bonam et plenam restitutionem in manerio de Hardredeshull faciamus. In cujus &c.

See this charter at large p. 138.

On the back of the deed the following indorsement:

Mem. Qd Walter' Colepeper armigr dñs de Hardreshul cartā sigillat' sibi die Lune vicesimo quarto die Oct' a° Hen' sexti XXXVIto p Willm Ludferde filiū Henr' Ludferde de Anserle.

N° VII. (Page 57.)

Entituled De magno Consilio tenendo apud Westmonasterium, Claus. 15 Edw. III. part. 2. m. 38. in dorso.

Rex dilecto et fidei suo Johanni de Hardredeshull salutem. Quia super quibusdam arduis negotiis nos et statum regni nostri Anglie et aliarum terrarum nostrorum, ac etiam recuperationem jurium nostrorum specialiter contingentibus, vobiscum et cum ceteris prelatibus ac magnatibus dicti regni nostri apud Westminster die Lune in crastino Clause Pasche proximo futuro colloquium habere volumus et tractatum, vobis in fide et dilectione quibus nobis tenemini mandamus firmiter injungentes quod omnibus aliis pretermiſſis dictis die et loco personaliter interfis, et cum ceteris prelatibus et magnatibus predictis super premiſſis tractaturis, vestrumque
consilium

confilium impensuri: et hoc sicut nos et honorem nostrum ac saluationem et defensionem dicti regni nostri diligitis, nullatenus omittatis.

Teste rege apud Westm. xxv die Februarii per ipsum regem.

Inquisit. 10 Ric. II. Atherston.

John Bredon et Alice p abbe de Merevalle.

Atherston, Whittington, and Baxterley.

6 mess. 4 acr. terre 6 s. 8 d. Red. Athereston.

Villa Cestr. Feod. 190.

Nº VIII. (Page 63.)

Recuperatio decimæ sylvarum in parochia de Mancester.

Hoc presens scriptum indentatum inter Thomam Colepeper milit' dominum de Hardehull ex una parte et Willielmum Brinklaw rectorem ecclesie de Mancester ex parte altera comitat' Warwicens' testatur quod post nonnullas lites et discordias inter eosdem de et super decimatione sylve vocat' Hardehull Hay juxta manerium et villam de Hardehull, ita conventum est, quod idem Thomas liberavit dicto Willielmo die scripture presentium, decem libras, tresdecim solidos, et quatuor denarios sterlingorum pro plena solutione et debita satisfactione decime dicte sylve ante datum presentium successe et defalcate dicto Willielmo, duntaxat pertinentiis, juribus dicte ecclesie et aliorum quorumque in omnibus semper salvis. Ita quod Willielmus antedictus post data presentium non vexabit vel placitabit dictum Thomam in quacumque curia ratione decime sylvarum antedicte successe et defalcate ante data presentium, et permissum est. In quorum omnium testimonium partes predictæ sigilla sua presentibus apposuerunt una cum appositione sigilli reverendi in Christo patris domini Rogeri Dei gratia ecclesie Offoriensis episcopi, in cuius presentia hoc agebatur. Dat' Londini quinto die mensis Maii an. Dom. millesimo quadringentesimo tertio, et regis Henrici post conquestum quarti quarto.

Nº IX. (Page 63.)

Madox, Formulæ Anglican. Pa. 206. , Nº 344. Feofment in Fee.

SCIANT presentes et futuri quod nos Thomas Mayne de Cortenale et Johanne uxor mea filiæ Johannis Machon, Ricardus Shorte alias Goderiche de Rode, et Agnes uxor mea filia Johannis Machon, dedimus, concessimus, et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Thomæ Colpeper chivaler, omnia illa terras et tenementa, redditus et servicia, cum pratis, pascuis, pasturis, reversionibus, et omnibus aliis pertinentiis suis, quæ quondam habuimus post decessum Simonis Machon de

de Rode capellani, in villis et in campis de Rode, Hertwelle, et Aſhen; habenda et tenenda omnia predicta terras et tenementa, redditus et ſervicia cum pratis, paſcuſ, paſturis, reverſionibus, et omnibus aliis pertinenciis ſuis prefato Thomæ Colpeper, heredibus, et aſſignatis ſuis in perpetuum. De capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum ꝑ ſervicia inde debita et de jure conſueta, et nos vero predicti Thomas Mayne, Johanna, Ricardus, et Agnes, et heredes noſtri omnia predicta terras et tenementa, redditus et ſervicia, cum pratis, paſcuſ, reverſionibus, et omnibus aliis pertinenciis ſuis prefato Thomæ Colpeper, hæredibus, et aſſignatis ſuis, contra omnes warantzabimus et in perpetuum defendemus. In cujus rei teſtimonium huic preſenti cartæ ſigilla noſtre appoſuimus. Hiis teſtibus &c. Datum apud Aſhene primo die Decembris, A. R. regis Henrici quinti poſt conqueſtum Angliæ octavo.

N° X. (Page 77.)

The charter of confirmation of all their privileges granted by Henry II. to the monks of Bec 1178, and ſaid to be in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Bartlet, is not come to our hands.

N° XI. (Page 78.)

Carta Roberti de Ferrariis.

SCIANT preſentes et futuri quod ego Robertus de Ferrariis relaxavi penitus et quiete clamavi pro me et heredibus meis eccleſiæ beate Mariæ de Becco et monachis ibidem Deo ſervientibus in liberam, puram, et perpetuam elemoſynam totum jus et clamium quod habui vel habere potui in manerio dictorum monachorum de Adereſton cum omnibus ſuis pertinentiis ſine aliquo retenemento de cetero michi vel heredibus meis. In cujus rei teſtimonium preſenti ſcripto ſigillum meum appoſui.

The ſeal is of green wax, about an inch and half long, and three-fourths of an inch broad, repreſenting not as Sir William Dugdale conceived the earl's *own face*, but one of thoſe beautiful antique cameos not unfrequently uſed as ſeals to old deeds with a later circumſcription, which like this is in Gothic capitals.

Secretum Roberti [de Ferrar]iis. See plate X. p. 77.

N° XII.

N° XII. (Page 80.)

Carta Regis Edwardi IV. de maneriis de *Atherston*, *Chefynbury*, *Quaile*, nec non de prioratu de *Uphavenne* alienigena aliisque donationibus.

Pat. 4 Hen. VIII. per Inspeximus. Dugd. Mon. Ang. III. ii. p. 73.

Edwardus &c. omnibus ad quos præsentēs literæ pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod nos in augmentationem et relevamen sustentationis grandium onerum dilectorum nobis in Christo custodis sive decani et canonicorum libere capelle nostræ S. Georgii infra castrum nostrum de *Wyndesore* de gracia nostra speciali ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris dedimus et concessimus et per præsentēs damus et concedimus eisdem custodi sive decano et canonicis manerium sive dominium de *Atherston*, quondam parcellam prioratus de *Oteburne* alienigenæ in comitatu Warwici; necnon manerium de *Chefynbury* alias dictum *Chefynbury* in comitatu Wiltes', ac manerium de *Quarle* cum suis pertinentiis una cum advocacione ecclesie de *Quarle* in com' Southampt', ecclesiam sive prioratum de *Uphavenne* alienigenam cum omnibus juribus et pertinentiis suis quibuscunque, decanatum sive capellam sancti Beriani alias S. *Burienne* in com. Cornubiæ, cum omnibus juribus et pertinentiis suis quibuscunque, ac quandam annuam pensionem sive annum apportum quam vel quem abbas de *Sawetre* reddere solebat pro ecclesia de *Fulberne* abbatiæ de *Bona requie* alienigenæ. Ac etiam quandam annuam pensionem sive quandam annum apportum viginti librar' quem vel quam abbas de *Roufford* nobis reddere tenetur pro medietate ecclesiæ de *Rotheram* in com. Eborum quæ quondam fuit abbatiæ de *Clarvalle* alienigenæ; ac omnimoda hundreda, maneria, terras, tenementa, redditus, servicia, et possessiones, feoda militum, advocaciones ecclesiarum, vicariarum, capellarum, hospitalium, portiones, penciones, decimas, oblationes, obventiones, et alia emolumenta et proficua quæcunque ad maneria, dominiæ, prioratus, decanatum sive capellam, annuas penciones sive annuos apportus prædicta qualitercunque pertinentia sive spectantia una cum reversionibus quibuscunque post mortem illarum personarum quæ ea vel aliqua eorum tenent in feoda talliata, seu ad terminum vitæ vel annorum aut aliquo modo quecunque: Habenda et tenenda eidem custodi sive decano et canonicis et successoribus suis dicta necessaria sive dominus prioratus et decanatum sive capellanus necnon dictas annuas penciones sive annuos apportus ac tenens tenementa et possessiones prædicta una cum reversionibus prædictis ac omnimodi hundredis, maneriis, terris, tenementis, possessionibus, redditibus, serviciis, ecclesiis, pencionibus, portionibus, feodis militum, advocacionibus ecclesiarum, libertatibus, franchesiis, ac aliis proficuis quibuscunque dictis maneriis sive dominiis prioratus

et decanatus five capellæ aut eorum seu præmissorum alicui, ac dictis terris, tenementis, et possessionibus quibuscunque nominibus maneria five dominia prioratus, decanatus, five capellæ, penciones five apportus aut aliæ possessiones prædictæ censentur qualitercunque pertinentibus, appendentibus, five spectantibus, adeo plene et integre sicut aliquæ personæ ea vel eorum aliquid ante hæc tempore habuerunt tenure sicut de nobis et hæredibus nostris in liberam, puram, et perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum absque alia apportu, firma, compurto vel ratiocinio aut alio proficuo quocunque nobis vel hæredibus nostris five reddendo vel solvendo, statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis &c. edito non obstante. In cujus &c. Teste meipso apud Wyndesore xviii^o die Julii anno regni nostri vii^o.

Carta Regis Edwardi Quarti de maneriis de Athereston.

Edwardus, &c. Omnibus ad quos presentes literæ pvenierint salutem. Sciatis quod nos, in augmentationem et relevamen sustentationis grandium onerum dilectorum nobis in Christo custodis five decani et canonicorum liberæ capellæ nostræ S^{ti} Georgii infra castrum nostrum de Wyndesore, de gratia nostra speciali, ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostro, dedimus et concessimus, ac per presentes damus et concedimus, eisdem custodi five decano et canonicis manerium five dominium de Athereston, quondam parcellam prioratus de Okeburn alienigenæ in com. Warwick, necnon &c.

Habenda et tenenda eidem custodi five decano et canonicis &c. adeo plene et integre sicut aliquæ personæ ea vel eorum aliquod ante hæc tempora habuerunt et tenuerunt de nobis et hæredibus nostris in liberam, puram, et perpetuam elemosinam in perpetuum, absque aliquo apportu, firma, computo, vel ratiocinio, aut alio proficuo quocunque nobis vel heredibus nostris inde reddendo vel solvendo, statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis &c. edito non obstante.

In cujus &c. T. meipso apud Wyndesore xxvii die Julii an. regn. nostr. vii.

N^o XII*. (Page 83.)

Extracts from a Court Roll in the reign of Edward VI. the marquis of Dorset lord of the manor by George Medley, Esq. Robert Burdet and others.

Atherston, a market town nine miles from Coventry, standeth in the great highway called Watlyngstreet, on the border of the Felden joining to the Woodland. This town hath the market on the Tuesdays, and the fair on the nativity of the Virgin Mary.

Demayn

Demayn Lands.

Elizabeth Green widow of Robert Green, late bayliff of this manor, holdeth by lease from the court of Augmentations dated in the 33d year of Henry VIII. for twenty-one years, fifty acres of meadow, pasture, and woodland, and twelve yards arable, at the yearly rent of xii l. i s. vi d.

Amyas Hill holdeth by lease 2 July, 38 Henry VIII. for twenty-one years, sixty-two acres at 3 l. and a common bakehouse at 1 l. 13 s. payable in the hall.

Christopher Drayton holdeth at the will of the lord five acres of land at 3 l. 6 d. and a barn in the market place at 6 s. 6 d.—total x s.

Margaret Green and John Walker 4 s. 6 d.

John Bodycote 3 s. 4 d.

John Bampton two mylns, one a water milne the other a horse milne 7 l. 13 s. 4 d.

Total of demayne lands 24 l. 2 s. 8 d.

One hundred and twenty acres of the out woods at 6 s. 8 d. per acre, 40 l.

The heriot the best beast, or other the best piece of household stuff.

Customary Tenants:			
The Gild for their burghs		Robert Green	2 6
and land pay	£ 1 10 10	Thomas Foster	6 6
Ditto	19 6½	Thomas Hunks	0 8
The chantry	14 5	Jane Wright	1 6
John Drayton	13 1	John Boddicote	2 0
William Rolf	8 5	Nicholas Nicholson	1 2
Christopher Drayton	5 11	John Beck	5 0
Nicholas Robinfon	3 7	Richard Dirk	0 7
John Abell	3 2	James Green	1 2
Symon Preston	5 0	Elleyn Glover	0 6
Richard Knolle	6 0	Raph Jago	0 6½
Joseph Mellington	10 3	Thomas Lyndar	0 6
John Wilkenfon	5 8	Thomas Wright	1 3
.....	2 7	Hugh Drayton	1 3
John Roper	5 3	Thomas Drayton	1 3
Bartholomew Farmer	2 6	John Banks	1 3
William Aldridge	0 6		1 0
John Rempton	5 6		2 3
William Drayton	10 3½	Thomas Clerk	2 0½
Thomas Barber	2 3½	John Wynd	0 7
William Farmer	2 0	Robert Dywet	1 2½
John Edwards	3 0	William Fitzherbert	3 5
Alice Maffeneý	2 6	John Brown	1 8
John Bannet	1 11	Agnes Brown	0 8
William Sill		John	0 7
.....	2 11	Ellen Cadell	0 10
.....	2 6	Robert Drayton	1 1½

X

John

John Mullen	1	1½	Amyas Hyll	0	6
Thomas Warler	1	0	Christopher Hutchinson	0	7½
John Wright	0	9	John Bounty	2	1
John Walter	0	7	Thomas Wood	5	0
Margaret Green	1	9		8	6
Alice	1	9			

In reditu resolut dñs Henricus dux Suffolciæ, &c. ad manerium de Atherstone de tenementis.

Johannes Walker	8	4
Ricardus Morrice	6	0½
Ricardus Hall	0	10
Willielmus Pratt	1	6
Willielmus Parkins	0	8
Henricus Hart	0	8
Willielmus Draper	0	8
Henricus Piper	0	4
Ricardus Brown	0	4
Johannis Chapman	0	3
Gregorius Lawson	0	9
Ejusdem Gregory	1	0
Ricardus Everet	2	0

£ 1 3 4½

Et in denariis numeratis dat' Batlyng vidua in elymosina

0 6 8

Et in elymosina &c.

4 10 0

May 8, 1672. By indenture of feofment of this date with livery of seizin indorsed Seabright Repington, Esq. and Clement Fisher, gentleman, in consideration of thirty-three pounds and ten pence paid to the said Seabright, grant and enfeof to William Goodwin and Richard Goodwin and their heirs, the town bakehouse in Atherstone, and three feet of ground adjoining to the west side thereof containing fifty four feet in length.

N° XIII.

Richard Devereux's Letters, written in 1542, 33 Hen. VIII. (See p. 89.)

Cotton MS. Cleopatra E. IV. pa. 250.

My singlar good lorde in my homely maner plesith yt your good lordchipe to understand that I have ben at Northampton, at Coventre, at Aderstone, at Warwike, at Thelford, at Draytewich*, at Wifitor, and now am at Glocester, intending towards Bristowe, in every place the portey and moche schifte made with such as they had before as jewellys selling and other schiffe by leasys, but in all the placys I have set steys by indenturys makeing, and the common sealys sequestering, so that now they have no schiffe to make, so that I thinke before the yere be owt ther schall be very fewe abill to lyve, but schall be gladde to gisse up their howses, scis and provide for them selvys otherwise their yai schall have no liveing. As for Glocester where I now am, I think their be ii howseis that will give up their howseis, for thei have no living. I shall order them so well as I can, and at my next letter I shall certefey your lordeschipe of them. The cause of my writing now ys for ii howseis, specially that is for Aderston, an howse of Austen freers x mile from Coventre, and for wheych ii howseis your lordeschipe may at your plesur adpoynte to help sum to them, at Aderston I have appoynted the prior to so good prryd till that I knowe further of your plesur, but all is gon so that they war not abill to make schiffie to pay for my costis, nor to gisse me on peny of the cont'butyon to their visitor accustomed that howse is a ppar howse and certeyne lond longing to that licing round about yt, to the value as that ys latin owt by lease of iiij markys by yere ally'ce stufte ys not worth the xcs. besides a chales and a bell and lead is non ther, and towching wheych the which ys the principall cause of my writing, that is not abill to contyne a howse of religion to keep above on freers, for all ys solld, he that was p'or by whom at Hester yow senthe your letters to the balys ther to see all their delyveryd ageyne into the howse, he hath in lesse than on zere that he hath bee'or ther fellyd and sold vii score good elmys, a chalys gillt of $\frac{xx}{iii}$ unc, and x unc, a sens of xxxvi unc, ii gret brasfe pottys ech abill to sethe an hole oxe as men say, spetys, pacennys, and other so that in the howse ys not left on bede, on schete, on plater or dische, ner for all the promes that he made to your lordeschipe he ys not abill to bring home eny thing ageyne, nor yet to make a trewe aecount where ys is spent by xx markys truly, and in his coffer I found a xi bullys of the bischopis of Rome, and above an hundredyd letters of pardons, and in all the bokys in the galre the bischop of Rome still standing as he did xx yerys past. I have charged the balys that he shall be forth comeing, and for the howse I have set a pore freer to kepe mafs ther, and I have providyd for his bord and leveying to be payd xvi d. a weke till your pleasure be knowen.

* Wyche, or Droitwich, Austin Friars, granted 34 Hen. VIII. to John Pye.

In that there be iii labur for yt, that is Sir John Russell schreyve of Wisetorshire he is cum to London to sew for yt, Mr. Pye and Mr. Newell servant with my lord of Wisitor, I spake to your lordschipe for and except he have yt, I think he schall please a mariage of xl markys by yere: your lordeschipe may do your pleasure; this is the substance of yt; the howse ys mate for no man to dwelle without gret costis don on yt. Yt standith in a good ayer, and yt hath so many tenauntys and clofeis about yt as to be laten for vli. by zere. Their be ii good bellys, a chailes, and a few vestments of litil valure, the stuff beside is not worth xls. lead ther ys non except in ii gutters the which the p'or hath convey'd in to ye town, but that is suar yt is metely wodey'd in hege rowys. Here is all, beseeching your lordeschipe to knowe your pleasure yff eny thing I shall do in theis ii howseis, I shall cum with in x mile of them in my progresse, but what so ever yow order for them, I pray yow be so good lord yt my chargis their may be payde of ye stuffe and ye dewties off the howseis, and that I may be discharged off the borde and wagis for ye freer, at which for I had neither peny nor penyworth in eny of them, also my lord I beseeche you to fend me your pleasure yf yt I schall medill with the howse of white freers in Winchester. I hear their be no freers, and whether eny ordenans be made by ye kingis grace or yow I know not your pleasure in theis my lord, I hartely beseeche yow and I ever at your commandment by Godds grace hoe sue yow to heis hei honor yis xxxiil day of May from Glofceter by your svant and orator,

Richard Deyereex.

N° XIII*. (Page 87.)

Extract from the deed of settlement of Alice Cunny of her estate in Hartshill,
21 James I. October 16, 1624,

Alice Cunny of Hartshill in the parish of Manceter and county of Warwick, widow, grants to John Stratford of Nun Eaton, and four others therein named, one annuity or yearly rent of seven pounds to be issued from and out of her dwelling house in Hartshill aforesaid, and out of all the other messuages, lands, tythes, rectories, tenements, and hereditaments of the said Alice Cunny.

The said rent or annuity of seven pounds to be half yearly paid by equal portions in the dwelling house of her the said Alice Cunny on the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, and on the Fryday next before Easter called Good Fryday, in the following proportions, that is to the church-wardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Manceter one pound and five shillings each day, to be by them given, viz. to the poor inhabitants of Atherston twenty shillings, and to the poor of the village of Hartshill five shillings. To the church-wardens and overseers of the town of Nun Eaton two pounds to be by them divided amongst the poor of their town, the remaining five shillings to be spent in the said house by the officers present.

N. B. The said annuity is regularly paid as directed, the said house being the dwelling house of the master of the free charity school.

Of which some is paid out of the school house and the remainder by Richard Jee out of lands by him purchased of John Ludford, Esq.

N° XIV.

N^o XIV.

Extract from the will of Nathaniel Newton of Hartshill, 3 Geo. II. May 16, 1730:

By which pursuant to the will of his father Nathaniel Newton, he devises to John Gulson and William Gulson of Coventry, and to seven more therein named, all his estate in Baxterley, and all that messuage with the lands thereto belonging which he had purchased of Stephen Newton of Bermingham formerly the estate of Alice Cunny deceased, in trust for the uses &c. hereafter mentioned, viz.

That the aforesaid trustees or the major part of them shall elect and appoint a discreet and grave person to be a schoolmaster to teach children to read the English tongue, to write and cast accounts competently, and such person shall place in the said messuage, and therein to teach school subject to such rules and regulations as are hereafter mentioned, viz. I order and direct that the trustees or the major part of them for the time being shall have power and authority to expell and remove such schoolmaster without giving any reasons for the same, and also to elect another person in his room, and shall at every such election take sufficient security for his removing from and quitting such school without any trouble after he has received six months notice for so doing. I hereby order that the said schoolmaster shall teach the children born in Hartshill, or whose parents dwell and reside there reading, writing, and arithmetic, girls as well as boys, without asking any other fee or reward, more than what I have given him.

That the said schoolmaster shall not be obliged or required to teach more than twenty-six boys and girls, twenty of which only shall be of Hartshill the remaining six from any other town or place in the county of Warwick, to be nominated by my trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, and if it shall happen that the number of children offered in Hartshill do not amount to the number of twenty, that then the trustees may fill up the number out of any such place as they may think proper.

And to the intent that good order and discipline be had in the school, I desire and appoint my said trustees and their successors to make such rules and orders as they shall think proper, subject to such reasonable punishments as the offence may require.

That no inhabitant or who hath a legal settlement in Hartshill shall be capable of being elected schoolmaster.

And to the end that such a schoolmaster may have a reasonable salary or stipend, I direct my trustees to pay him six pounds half yearly, that is on Michaelmas and Lady-day, out of the rents and profits of the farm or estate at Baxterley.

And as to the rest and residue of the rents of the same I direct them to be disposed off as follows: that is in repairing the two several tenements in Hartshill and Baxterley, with all the out-houses and buildings thereto belonging, and in defraying all necessary charges which my said trustees shall or may incur for or on account of the said school or trust, and that what remains after such deductions shall be paid, that the remainder shall be half yearly paid to the overseer of the poor of Hartshill on the same days, and at the same place as the charitable gift of Mrs. Alice Cunny is directed to be paid, and then and there divided amongst the

poor of Hartshill without any deduction, and that the overseer shall return a list of the names of such poor people as have received the same, the said lists to be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose at the said school.

That the trustees shall meet once a year or oftener as occasion shall require at the said school-house, in order to settle the accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the said school and farm at Baxterley, and that the overseer of Hartshill for the time being may be present at such meetings, and see such accounts if he desire it.

And that the said trust may be continued in perpetuity, it is my will that when four of the trustees are dead or refuse to act, that the same number be elected, and that the surviving trustees do convey to some other persons for the use of themselves and those elected to keep up the number nine.

That the trustees may make leases of the farm in Baxterley not exceeding a term of twenty-one years. That the schoolmaster shall constantly attend the school from seven to eleven in the forenoons, and from one till five in the afternoons in summer, and from eight to eleven in the mornings, and from one till four in the afternoons in winter.

Trustees in the will 1730.

John Gulson,
William Gulson,
Joseph Freeth,
Gregory Goodall,
Henry Bradford,
John Bradford,
Samuel Lythall,
Daniel Lythall,
Jonathan Freeth,

Sampson Loyd, 1779.
Edward Gulson,
Joseph Freeth,
William Fowler,
George Boon,
Samuel Lythall,
William Lythall.

N^o XV. Extract of the will of Swain Steevens of Hartshill, Farrier. Dec. 20, 1772.

I give twenty shillings a year for ever to be laid out in books for such poor children as belong to Hartshill, and to none other, and those such as their parents are the least able to purchase them.

The books to be distributed at Whitsuntide, and to be suited to the ages and capacities of the children they are designed for.

The children to be nominated by the majority of the inhabitants of Hartshill, at their Easter meeting for chusing the overseer of the poor.

The parents not to apply in person, but to give in their names to the overseer before the meeting, otherwise to be excluded from this small charity.

And this yearly payment I charge out of the house and garden I now inhabit.

I likewise give one shilling a year more to be paid to the overseer out of my house and garden aforesaid, for his trouble in entering the names and distributing the books to those appointed to receive them.

The first giving of these books to be at Whitsuntide come twelve-months after my decease.

And I give full power to the overseer of the poor of Hartshill, with the consent of the inhabitants concerned in parish business, to seize upon the premises for the twenty-one shillings a year, the same as if it was for rent, and to recover all reasonable charges in so doing, if not paid in due time.

N^o XVI. ADDITIONS and CORRECTIONS.

P. 4. l. 3. Following the course of the Watling-street, and fixing his future stations on the sites of the British, which though very rude yet served as a sure guide to the strangers, who without this assistance would very probably have been often exposed to great dangers amongst so inhospitable a race as the Wiccian Ceangi are by some authors represented, he led the Roman troops from the banks of the southern Ouse, and the adjacent station of Laetodorum where they had remained from the departure of Plautius northwards. Through or rather on the North East side was carried a road called by the Britons Gatheling Streer, and at proper distances stations, some of which were those towns that Cæsar describes to have been used by them in time of war.

P. 5. l. 7, 8. *after* of the Iceni and Coitanni (or *Coitannori*), their situation, &c. *add* Mr. Pegge, from Richard, concludes that the Iceni and Coitanni were sometimes taken as one people, but divided by the different parts where they inhabited; those on the German ocean, and to the confines of Northamptonshire were continued by that name of Iceni, and the other part inhabiting the Silva Caledonia by the Britains called Coit; thence Coitanni, as Lindum was called Cæsar Lind Coit.

This explanation and division of the two tribes account for the early attack on the Iceni by Ostorius, and perhaps for the division of the road at Benones in order to come at them, and on this principle we may easily account for the Lindum Colonia being called the capital of the Iceni in Boadicia's days. The Cangi being another name for the Cornavii was perhaps the victory mentioned by Tacitus over them.

P. 6. l. 16. for "quasi dicas," r. "hodie;"—l. 23. r. "Over Arley."

P. 7. l. 24. Before "Aulus Didius," r. "A. D. 53."

Ib. 29. To "Paulinus," add, "A. D. 59."

P. 9. l. 1. The "small camp" is called "Camp Hill."

Ib. l. 20. After period, add, "A. D. 59."

Ib. l. 24. One of these rencontres is thus described by Tacitus: "Et victor Britannus, Petilio Ceriali, legato legionis nonæ, in subsidium obventanti obvius, fudit legionem, et quod peditum interfecit: Cerialis cum equitibus evasit in castra et munimentis defensus est." *Annal. lib. xiv. cap. 32.*

P. 10. l. 1. r. "Cannon Street."

P. 12. l. 3. r. "vel Conventree;" l. 20. r. "eccentric ideas."

Ib. l. 20. After this line Mr. Bartlett has written,

"O Nathaniel, peace be to thy manes."

P. 15. l. 16. The drawing intended to have been engraven in Plate II. as *fig. 2.* is not to be found among Mr. Bartlett's papers; nor any explanation of *fig. 7.*

P. 17. Figures 5. and 6. in that Plate represent some specimens of natural history. *Fig. 5.* is a cornelian, and *fig. 6.* a bloodstone, found at Kenelworth castle.

P. 20.

P. 20. l. 17. r. "In 716."

P. 23. l. 15. r. "duke William."

P. 25. l. 3. for "remarried," r. "married."

P. 26. l. 15. *add* Her son Ralph de Gernons, by her second husband Ralph earl of Chester, died 1153 *. See his seal (from Archæol. IV. plate IV.) in our plate *XI. p. 80.

P. 29. l. 8. r. "most of which are farmers."

P. 30. l. 13. r. "second son."

Ib. note †, for *her* read *his* charter.

P. 31. l. 2. r. "Savenby."

P. 32. l. 18. for "representative," r. "knight of the shire."

Ib. l. 20. r. "2 Edward II;" l. 27. r. "54 Hen. III."

P. 33. l. The seals of John and Guido de Manceter are engraved in Plate XVI. p. 99. fig. 1, 2.

P. 34. l. 4. r. "three daughters."

P. 35. l. 18. r. "and Thomas Ludford of Witherley, who," &c.

P. 38. l. 28. To Richard Mabell, M. A. *add*, "then vicar of Manceter."

P. 39. l. 5. r. "Nicholas Langridge then vicar of Leek Wootton."

Ib. l. 9. "Timothy de Leni, B. A. then vicar of Ashowe."

Ib. l. 12. "John Ruft, M. A. then vicar of Kenilworth."

Ib. l. 15. "Richard Stapylton, B. A. then vicar of Monkskirby."

Ib. l. 18. "Richard Belingham, B. A. then vicar of Stoneley."

As it is printed now, it appears that the division was made to the parties above mentioned as in fee-fimple for their own benefit, and not as vicars of the above places. (See p. 37.) In Mr. Bartlett's MS. the names of the vicarages are inserted in the margin against each name.

P. 41. Plate III. consists of *Statio Æstiva*, the summer camp at Oldbury; and in the South East corner is the small advanced camp at Camphill, about a mile or more distant, commanding a view of Nun Eaton, and all the circumjacent country. It is probable, from appearances, that the fortifications on the South West side extended nearly, if not all the way, from thence to Oldbury. The two round rings are the sites of the two tumuli, one near Hartshill castle, and the other destroyed upon Hartshill shuts, or common.

P. 43. l. 23. for "filius" read "filiis."

P. 45. l. 12. for "James," r. "John;" and *add*, "1560."

Ib. l. 22. *add*, "fc. 1779."

P. 47. l. 18. strike out "see Plate VI." and *add*, "See a view of this chapel, Pl. VII. fig. 1.

Ib. l. 20. The name of *Chapel* evidently supposes that this old building had been used as a place for worship; but leaves us entirely in the dark as to the time when, and by whom it was occupied. Before the Reformation, the parish church of Manceter, the friars' church at Atherston, with the neighbouring chapel of the nuns at Oldbury, and the domestic chapel of the castellated mansion of the Har-dreshulls, were more than sufficient for the parish. It must therefore have been

posterior to the days of Henry; and as no dissensions arose in the church till the early times of Elizabeth, when great numbers of the Marian exiles returning from the continent strongly prejudiced against the ceremonies and some of the doctrines of the English church seceded, and in many places formed congregations, they and their ministers being called Puritans, such a one this appears to have been, and the period of its existence the early days of Elizabeth.

P. 51. l. 2. To "after," add, "viz."

P. 55. l. 2. for "Kelavy," r. Kelefy;" l. 3. for "defendant," r. "deforcient."

P. 56. l. 16. r. "10 Edward II."

P. 57. *Notes*, l. 11. r. "Philip de Hardreshull."

P. 64. l. 21. "1457, r. "1467."

Ib. for 1465, r. "1475."

Ib. l. 22. for 1461, r. "1471."

P. 65. l. 9. for "105." r. "101."

Ib. l. 20. r. "1500 and 1507;" l. 23. add "1505."

P. 66. l. 1. add, "1539."

P. 69. l. 1. After "annum," r. "Sir Anthony Cook died seised thereof in 18 Elizabeth, leaving Richard his son and heir of full age; from whom, or his successors, it descended to the family of Purefoy, Francis and George Purefoy being seised thereof, and passing it by feoffment, bearing date 12 June, 6 Jac. I. and A.D. 1609, to Edmund Parker; which Edmund Parker passed it by bargain and sale inrolled, bearing date 15 May, 1621, 18 Jac. I. to Thomas and John Elkington; but it does not appear that this was an absolute release of the premises, but more probably only a collateral security for a sum of money; as the estate certainly reverted again to the Parkers, in whose possession it remained, till Edmund Parker, gent. son and heir of John Parker, by indentures of lease and release, bearing date the 8th and 9th of October, A.D. 1756, and 30 Geo. II. passed it to John Ludford, of Anceley Hall, in the county of Warwick, Esq; whose only son and successor, John Ludford, now (seil 1790) enjoys it. The said last mentioned John Ludford (since the drawing of the castle was taken) has built up the breach in the East side of the walls, and put a new loop-hole (worked to match the old ones) in the place where one undoubtedly stood before the breach was made for a door-way. He has also repaired the side of the North postern, and rebuilt the West side of the West postern, which had fallen down; and intends, by degrees, to do more in repair of the other parts of the walls, which are now either fallen down, or in a state of decay.

P. 69. l. ult. r. "15 James I. 1618;" and add as follows: "Sir Anthony Cook died seised thereof in 18 Elizabeth 1576, leaving Richard his son and heir of full age; whose son and successor, likewise named Anthony, by indenture, dated the 10th of March, 1583, wherein he is styled of Bedfords within the parish of Horn Church, in Essex, aliened the same to William Cook, of St. Martin's in the Fields, in or near the suburbs of the city of London, Esq.; and by deed-poll, bearing date the 3d of June, 1584, he confirms the said manor to the said William Cook; on the 2d of October, 1605, Sir William Cook, of Hyneham, in the county of the city of Gloucester, for himself and Lady Joyce his wife, did covenant with Sir John Morris, of Cheping Ongar, in Essex, Knight, and Edward Turner, Esq. to levy a fine of the said manor, which is therein mentioned to have been lately purchased

Y

by

by William Cook, Esq. deceased, father of the said Sir William and Sir Anthony Cook, Knight, also deceased. On 15 June, 1608, 6 James, Sir William Cook, of Hyneham aforesaid, and Sir John Poynts, of North Ockendon, in Essex, Knight, son and heir of James Morris, late of Cheping Ongar, Esq. granted the same to Ralph Burton, of Linley, co. Leicester, Esq. Francis Purefoy, of Caldecote, Esq; and Edward Lewis, of Manchester, Esq.

15th and 16th of May, 1702, 1 Anne, by indenture of lease and release and fines, Sir John Sebright, of Besford Court, co. Worcester, Bart. and dame Anne his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas Saunders, late of Beachwood, in the county of Hertford, Esq. of the first part; Dorothy Purefoy, widow of William Purefoy, Esq. late of Caldicot, deceased, Jane Purefoy, only surviving daughter of the said William and Christopher Deighton, of the Middle Temple, London, of the second part; Joseph Offley, of the Middle Temple, Esq. and George Purefoy, citizen and haberdasher, of London, of the third part; did convey to George Wrighte, of the Inner Temple, London, Esq. John Twells, and Ezekiel Wrighte, the said manor of Hartshill, *inter alia*, in trust, and for the sole use and benefit of the Right Honourable Sir Nathan Wrighte, Knight, lord keeper of the Great Seal of England, and his heirs, for ever.

18 July, 1751, 24 George II. William Wrighte, of Newark, near the borough of Leicester, Esq. and Susannah his wife, and George Wrighte, of Gothurst, co. Bucks, Esq. and Barbara his wife (which William and George were sons and heirs of the said lord keeper), by indenture of bargain and sale inrolled, and a fine, conveyed the same to Robert Prinsep, of Croxall, in the county of Derby, Gent.

And on the 3d and 4th of November, 1783, 23 George III. Thomas Prinsep, of Croxall aforesaid, eldest son of the said Robert, and Thomas Prinsep the younger, son and heir apparent of the above named Thomas Prinsep, did, by indenture of lease and release, convey the said manor of Hartshill, &c. to Thomas Fisher the elder, Esq. of Raunston Hall, in the county of Leicester, (now, scil. 1791, owner hereof), with remainder to Thomas Fisher the younger, Esq. his first son, and his heirs male.

P. 77. l. 2. after "lately," add, "scil. in the time of Edward the Confessor."

Ibid. note, l. 3. r. "51 Hen. III."

P. 78. l. 30. r. "viz. before a farthing."

P. 79. l. 16. r. "Prilly."

P. 80. l. 17. read N° XI.

add to note †, see a fine seal of his Plate XIV. fig. 2.

P. 82. l. 3. r. "to issue out of it."

Ib. See the seal of Merevale abbey, Plate X. fig. 2.

P. 82. note §. l. 2. r. "or Bakehouse Lake."—l. 3. r. "copyhold tenants."

P. 83. l. 4. r. "as appears by the survey;" l. 5. r. "and others, surveyors, &c."

Ib. l. 13. add, "or other the best piece of his household stuff."

P. 85. l. 3. r. "Argent, *sans* number;" l. 25. for "knt." r. "eq. aurat."

P. 86. add, Abraham Bracebridge, Esq. died at Atherston-hall, Sept. 11, 1789, aged 72. Q. If Clement was not the grandson of Mary daughter of Francis Repington, Esq.

P. 88. note, l. 1. r. "Fereumon."

P. 89. l. 8. *read* "In 27 Henry VIII." and line 9. "two pence."

Ibid. The Friary at Atherston was suppressed at the general dissolution, viz. 27 Henry VIII. 1536 (value 1 l. 10 s. 2 d. per annum); and given 35 Henry VIII. 1544, to Henry Cartwright. Tanner, p. 585.—See Appendix, p. 155.

P. 90. l. 9. r. "Abraham Bracebridge;" l. 16. r. "they have taken down."

Ibid. Memorandum, 30th July, 1782. We whose names are subscribed, eight of the committee appointed for directing the business of taking down and rebuilding the chapel steeple within mentioned, do hereby, with the consent of Mess. Harris and Cheshire, testified by their signing this memorandum, direct that the clock-dial be placed at the bottom of the steeple windows instead of the top, as proposed by the plan annexed to the within written agreement,

Dudley Baxter,
John Willday,
Joseph Jarvis,
John Morris,

William Parker, jun.
Samuel Stratton,
Benjamin Harris, and Co.

This agreement, made 8th day of June 1782, between the underwritten gentlemen of the committee for taking down and rebuilding Atherstone chapel steeple, and Mess. Harris and Cheshire, builders. That is to say, the said Mess. Harris and Cheshire do hereby agree to take down and rebuild so much of Atherstone chapel steeple as is herein after mentioned, in the best workman-like manner, according to the plan annexed, and signed by the said parties, on or before the 19th day of September next ensuing, finding all labour and materials and carriage for the said work, and also to carry away all rubbish when the work is finished, for the sum of one hundred and forty-five pounds, to be paid to the said Mess. Harris and Cheshire within six weeks after the work is compleated. First, All the stone work above the tiling of the church, and below the projecting or weathering course marked A, to be tooled over and pointed, and new stones put in where wanting, two foot below the said course A is to be taken quite off, and rebuilt if it is found necessary when the work above is taken off. Secondly, The course A and all the external stone work above it to be Attleborough stone, well wrought and cleaned up, and the Gothick mouldings over the openings B to be sunk-in four inches. Thirdly, The Gothick mouldings above the course C to be sunk-in six inches. Fourthly, The pinnacles to be in one stone each. Fifthly, The arch-stones D to go through the wall in one thickness. Sixthly, The stone-work to be well secured with iron cramps and lead, as proposed by Mr. Harris's estimate. Seventhly, The faces of the clock to be handsomely painted and gilt, and the clock to be in all respects again replaced. Eighthly, A new oak roof slated, lead gutters 8 pound to the foot, lead to the hips 6 pound to the foot. Ninthly, A new vane or weathercock to be handsomely painted and gilt, agreeable to Mr. Couchman's direction. Tenthly, All damages done to the church by the builders to be made good again at their expence. The whole of this business to be done according to the true intent and meaning of the plan, and to the satisfaction of Mr. Couchman. In witness whereof, we whose names are underwritten, being of the committee appointed to take down and rebuild the said steeple, and Mess. Harris and Cheshire, have

set our hands to this agreement and the plan, this 10th day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two.

Benjamin Harris,
John Cheshire,
John Morris,

Charles Dale,
Joseph Jarvis,
John Willday.

Ib. l. 19. The following inscription is the only one that is in Atherston chapel:

“Hic jacet Love Rawson, hujus oppidi
Advocatus, Edwardi Rawson de Coventry,
et Elizabethæ uxoris ejus
Filius quartus.

Qui obiit decimo septimo Aprilis,
Anno Salutis MDCCXIX.
Ætatis suæ XXIX.

Cujus memoriæ
Maria conjux
Hoc monumentum imposuit.
Memor esto brevis evi.

Ib. l. 23. *read* 1544.

Here is a Presbyterian meeting-house, and one for the people called Quakers.

P. 91. Along with the human bones dug up in 1778 &c. by Mr. Bracebridge was a cannon-ball, some musquet-balls, and several pieces of silver money, principally of the reign of Elizabeth, no doubt, from some unnoticed skirmish in the civil wars. Not far from this is a place called Bloody Bank, perhaps from that skirmish.

P. 93. l. 21. Mr. Finch should be dated “1771;” he succeeded Mr. Biddle.

P. 96. Dr. Grew’s library was sold within three months after his decease, by a marked catalogue, the title of which is too curious not to be inserted at large:

“A Catalogue of Part of the Library of that late eminent Nehemiah Grew, M. D. fellow of the Royal Society, and of the College of Physicians; containing a curious collection of many valuable books in physic, divinity, and history, together with variety of *uncommon* stitched pamphlets and MSS. Also a collection of stones, engraved or cut out, ancient, and set in gold or silver, for the use of rings and seals. Which will begin to be sold, the fair way (the price to be put in each book, and on every seal and ring), on Monday next, being the 23d of this instant June, at the Rose-Tavern, without Temple-Bar, from nine o’clock in the morning till eight at night. The sale to continue two days, and no longer. Catalogues may be had at Mr. Strachan’s in Cornhill, Mr. Clement’s in St. Paul’s Church-yard, Mr. Brown’s without Temple-Bar, Booksellers, and at the place of sale, where written catalogues of the whole may be seen.” There are 156 lots of “*Libri Theologici, Medici, &c. Græcè, Latinè, & Anglicè, folio,*” many with *g. b. i. e.* gilt backs; with many others not here inserted.”

P. 98. l. 12. r. “Roger de Crophull.”

P. 101. For “Ruggel,” r. “Ruggely.”

P. 102. notes l. 3. *read* crescent’ 4. filiginis 8. vitulor’—*cænapi.*

l. 10. *read* 18 Oct.

P. 104.

P. 104. to paragraph 1 *add* Appendix, p. 126.

2 Appendix, p. 125.

3 Appendix, p. 127.

4 Appendix, p. 128.

5 last line, *read* appurtenances, *and add*, Ibid.

6 line penult: *read* tythes of hay &c. and the Easter book, mortuaries, &c. Ibid.

7, 8, and 9, *add* Ibid.

P. 104. l. 15. r. "Michael and Edmund Parker, petitioners," &c.

P. 107. l. 8. r. "messuage-house and homestead."

P. 110. *add* to the list of vicars of Manceter :

"Mancestre, Cov' et Lych' dioc', vicar' 24 die mens' 1452, apud Fulham dñs admisit d. *Will. Hawton* capell' ad vicar' eccl' paroch' de Mancestre Cov' et Lich' dioc', fede ibidem tunc vacante, per resignat' dñi Johis Barbour' ats dicti Mountford, ult' vicar' ejusdem, vac', ad present' ab, et conv' mon' B. M. de Miravalli, ord'is Cisterc', dicte vicarie veror' patr'. (Reg. Kemp. archiepi Cantuar. fol. 321. a.)

Ibid. l. 10. r. "Conv. de Merevale;" l. 33. r. "per mort. Underwood."

P. 112. l. 2. for "occupied," r. "owned."

Ibid. *add* the following accurate list of the Manceter charities :

£. s. d.

Sir John Repington, charge upon an house *per ann.*

5 0 0

2s. each to 50 poor parishioners at Christmas.

John and Anne Loveday, £.100. a piece.

James Granner, £.200. charging the interest of the whole £.400. at £.5. *per cent.* upon his house and lands in Manceter, *per ann.*

20 0 0

One moiety to be divided amongst 40 poor parishioners at Christmas; the other amongst the same number at Whitsuntide.

Mrs. Alice Currey. Charge upon an house and land, *per ann.* to the use of the poor.

2 0 0

Edward Drayton. The same upon land, *per ann.* to the use of the poor.

—

1 0 0

Thomas Morton. The same upon land, *per ann.* to the use of the poor.

—

0 8 0

Michael Trafford. The same upon an house, *per ann.* to buy shifts for poor widows.

—

2 15 0

Edward Berks. The same upon an house, *per ann.* to the use of the poor.

—

1 0 0

Harrington Drayton. The same upon an house, *per ann.* to buy jerkins and shoes for six poor widows.

2 12 6

William Strong. The same upon an house, *per ann.* bread for the poor at St. Thomas's.

—

0 10 0

Richard Abell. An house, present rent *per ann.* to place out apprentices.

—

4 8 0

	£.	s.	d.
William Simmonds. Land, present rent <i>per ann.</i> —	4	8	2
rent to be expended in bread for poor widows, a loaf each, at Manceter church, every Sunday.			
William Simmonds. Charge upon land, <i>per ann.</i> —	5	0	0
William Simmonds. Land, present rent <i>per ann.</i> —	14	0	0
to place out apprentices.			
These two last articles are given, one third to Atherstone; and the same to Nun-Eaton and Tamworth.			
William Sharp. Land, present rent <i>per ann.</i> —	7	11	10
to place out apprentices.			
This article is given, one moiety to Atherston; the other to Market Bosworth, Leicestershire.			
Richard Choyce, £.150. in 4 <i>per cent.</i> stock, <i>per ann.</i> —	6	0	0
3s. 6d. each to 30 poor inhabitants of Atherstone at Christmas.			
Thomas Bracebridge. Charge upon house and land <i>per ann.</i> —	1	0	0
1s. each to 20 poor men upon the 16th day of August.			
Richard Warwick. Land, present rent <i>per ann.</i> —	26	0	0
to buy coats and hatts for poor parishioners of Atherston at Christmas.			
Richard Martyn. Land, present rent <i>per ann.</i> —	20	0	0
to buy coats and hats for poor men, parishioners, at Whitsuntide.			
Of Martyn's charity, three coats and hats are given yearly to Manceter and Hartshill: two to one place, and one to the other, alternately.			
Rent charge upon an house in Atherstone, formerly the property of ——— Shellard, now of Thomas Carver, <i>per ann.</i> —	0	6	8
for the use of poor widows.			
Annual rent charge upon the school-house in Atherstone, for the use of poor widows.	0	6	8
Annual rent charge upon premises in Henley in Arden, —	1	0	0
for the use of the poor.			

P. 119. In the monumental inscriptions, l. 5. after *Barnard*, read viz. Argent, a bear rampant Sable, muzzled, Or, impaling, Sable, a chevron between three antique shields, Or crest, a demi bear erect Sable, muzzled, Or.

Ibid. l. 6. after *Pew*, read viz.

Okeover, Ermine on a chief Gules, 3 bezants impaling.

Langstone, Or a chevron Gules, in chief two roses proper and in base, a dolphin embowed of the last.

Edward Goddard's description of Manceter, Oldbury, and Atherstone, written about 70 years ago.

MANCETTER, OLDBURY.

Mandueffedum, a town of very great antiquity, mentioned by Antoninus, the Emperor, in his Itinery, no Muncester and Mancetter; and in Ninnius, Catalogue *Caer Mancegued*, which name (since a quarry of free-stone lies near it) 'tis probable was given it from the stone there digged and hewed: for in the Glossaries of the British tongue *main* signifies a stone, and *foswad*, in the provincial language, digging; which, being joined together, seem aptly enough to express the name *Mandueffedum*. Besides the finding of coins of silver and brass, as also pavements and causeways upon digging and ploughing, are a further confirmation of its antiquity; and if Oldbury were a fort belonging to it, as 'tis alledged by Mr. Camden, it will add more to its antient lustre; for there, upon a particular eminence on the North side of a fair old feat belonging to the Farmers, and before to the Whitehales, is a quadrangular fort, containing 7 acres of ground; in the North part of it, there have been found several flint stones about 4 inches in length, curiously wrought by grinding, or some such way; the one end shaped like the edge of a pole-axe; and by Sir William Dugdale they are thought to have been weapons used by the Britains, before the making of brass and iron arms: they must have been brought hither for some extraordinary use, because there are no flints to be found within 40 miles of the place. Now whether Oldbury were a fort belonging to Mandueffedum, which lies a mile from it South-west over a common, I will not dispute; but by the pavements found and coins digged up, some works of earth cast up, whereof one called Old Fort, on the North-east of Manceter, it seems more than probable, that this station extended itself this way over the river Anker, and beyond the Roman military way, called Watling-street, unto the place now called Wytherley. This way cutting between the two towns, which are not half a mile apart, and by the pavements, ensigns of war, &c. found here, the tracts of antiquity, this seems rather to have been a part of the antient Mandueffedum than Oldbury with Mr. Camden, or Atherston according to the tradition of the inhabitants: but whatever note Manceter was of formerly, 'tis now a very small village, but has a parochial church; to which are members, Atherston, Hartshill, Oldbury.

ATHERSTONE,

Which, as I have observed before, is a member of Manceter, and lies Westward from it an easy mile; it is situate pleasantly upon a gently rising hill, having delightful woods and parks on the *North*, and the open fields to the *South* thereof; the town consists principally of one long street, through which passes the Watling-street way, by which I guess it is of Roman antiquity; it had formerly a monastery of Augustine friars, dependants to the monks of Beck in Normandy, out of whose ruins, at the dissolution of monasteries in the time of Hen. VIII. there arose a fair house, the seat of the lords of this town, and now belonging to Edward Repington, Esq. lord thereof. Also a small chapel, but long neglected, and made little or no use of, till Samuel Bracebridge, Gent. an inhabitant of this town,

town, 1673, settled *per ann.* to the parson of Manceter, to preach there every other Sunday during the Winter season; which, by being augmented since out of the same worthy family, there is divine service there constantly once a fortnight, and prayers twice a week, Wednesdays and Fridays, by the donation of my friend, Thomas Bracebridge, Gent. deceased; which pious benevolence is the greatest ornament of the place. As also a free-school, built in the time of Queen Elizabeth, with the endowment of £.80. *per ann.* under the government of twelve feoffees, inhabitants of the towne. “Cujus Gymnasii in teneris annis fui *“discipulus.”* It has a passable market on Tuesdays; and is well stored with inns; from which it is, I think, that the inhabitants boast, “that the town is walled with ale, and paved with marble, from a black hard stone dug in the outwoods, as they call them, hard by, with which it is mostly paved.

P. *144. l. 19, *for “breath,” read “breadth.”*

P. 138. l. 8, *add*, This seal is engraved, Plate VIII. fig. 3.

P. 139. l. 16, *add*, Engraved, Plate VIII. fig. 4.

Ibid. l. ult. *add*, Engraved, Plate VIII. fig. 5.

Ibid. Plate *VIII. fig. 2. Deed N° 1. See p. 147.

A P P E N D I X

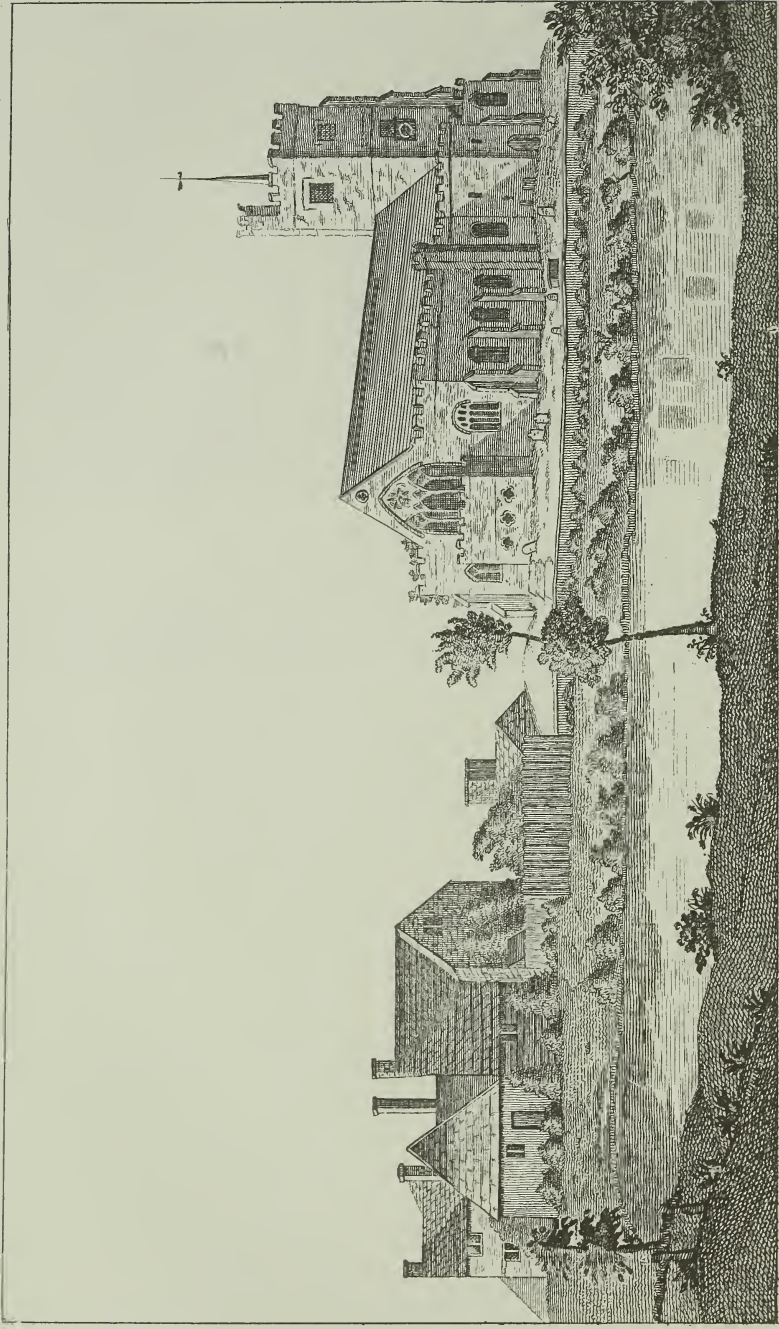
P. 147. l. ult. *to Gules, add*, Engraved, Plate VIII. fig. 2. See p. 139.

P. 148. l. 18, *add*, See p. 138.

P. 152. l. penult. *for “Tuedays,” read “Teufdays.”*

F I N I S.

Plate I. to face the Title.



HAWKHERST Church, Kent

H A W K H E R S T.
A
S K E T C H
O F I T S
H I S T O R Y A N D A N T I Q U I T I E S.
U P O N T H E
P L A N
S U G G E S T E D I N T H E
G E N T L E M A N ' S M A G A Z I N E
F O R P R O C U R I N G
P A R O C H I A L H I S T O R I E S
T H R O U G H O U T
E N G L A N D.

L O N D O N :
P R I N T E D B Y A N D F O R J . N I C H O L S .
M D C C X C I I .

MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES,

(IN CONTINUATION OF THE

BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA BRITANNICA,)

Nº II.

CONTAINING

A Sketch of the HISTORY of HAWKHERST.

AMONG the various labours of Literary Men, there have always been certain Fragments whose Size could not secure them a general Exemption from the Wreck of Time, which their intrinsic Merit entitled them to survive; but having been gathered up by the Curious, or thrown into Miscellaneous Collections by Booksellers, they have been recalled into Existence, and by uniting together have defended themselves from Oblivion. Original Pieces have been called in to their Aid, and formed a Phalanx that might withstand every Attack from the Critic to the Cheesemonger, and contributed to the Ornament as well as Value of Libraries.

With a similar View it is here intended to present the Publick with some valuable Articles of BRITISH TOPOGRAPHY, from printed Books and MSS. One Part of this Collection will consist of Re-publications of scarce and curious tracts; another of such MS Papers as the Editors are chiefly possessed of, or may receive from their Friends.

It is therefore proposed to publish a Number occasionally, not confined to the same Price or Quantity of Sheets, not always adorned with Cuts; but paged in such a Manner, that the general Articles, or those belonging to the respective Counties, may form a separate Succession, if there should be enough published, to bind in suitable Classes; and in general it is intended that each Tract shall be completed in a single Number.

Into this Collection all Communications consistent with the Plan will be received with Thanks. And as no Correspondent will be denied the Privilege of controverting the Opinions of another, so none will be denied Admittance without a fair and impartial Reason.

* * * This Number contains Two PLATES.

THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
HAWKHERST.

“ Kent, in the Commentaries Cæsar writ,
“ Is term’d the civil’st place of all this isle ;
“ Sweet is the country, because full of riches ;
“ The people liberal, valiant, active, worthy.”

SHAKSPEARE.

Mr. NICHOLS,

IN conformity to my promise in the Gentleman’s Magazine, Vol. LVII. p. 564, I send you a transcript of some papers I collected towards furnishing the parochial history of Hawkherst, written at various times, and amidst avocations of a different nature ; I am not conscious they possess any other merit than that of fidelity and accuracy.

HAWKHERST is a large village, situated in the South of the county of Kent, 48 miles from London, by a rivulet which divides that
B county

county from Sussex. It is surrounded with the parishes of Goudherst, Cranbrook, Benenden, and Sandherst, in Kent; and Bodiam, Saleherst, Etchingham, and Ticeherst in Sussex. A very small part of this parish called *Haselden* lies within the county of Sussex and hundred of Shroyswell (only two houses and a little land to each); the remainder is in Kent, in the bailiwick of the seven hundreds; lathe of Scray, West division of the county, and lower division of justices in that lathe*. The parish is in the hundreds of Great Barnfield and Selbrittenenden, with a very small part in the hundred of Cranbrook. The hundreds are, according to the antient division of Kent, again subdivided into boroughs, of which so much as is in the borough of Hawkherst, otherwise South Borough, or in the North Borough, is in the borough of Great Barnfield; what is in the West Borough, in the hundred of Selbrittenenden; and the residue, which is in the borough of Crothall, in the hundred of Cranbrook†. In the charge‡ of the tenth and fifteenth, made in the 13th of Elizabeth, that part of Hawkherst in the hundred of Barnfield is rated at 3*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* and that which is in the hundred of Selbrittenenden at 5*s.* 8½*d.*; the other being so small has no charge. The borough of Hawkherst hath a court-leet of itself, where the borsholder of that borough is chosen, and the inhabitants of it owe no service to the court-leet holden for the hundred of Great Barnfield, but at that court an inhabitant of this borough may be chosen constable of that hundred§.

The subdivision of hundreds into tithings seems to be most peculiarly the invention of Alfred the Great, and is a branch of that admirable system of government he introduced, and which modern refinement but vainly attempts to improve. The realm being divided into shires, these shires subdivided into lathes, as in Kent; rapes in Sussex; trithings or ridings in Yorkshire; these again into hundreds,

* Kilburne.

† Kilburne.

‡ Lambard.

§ Kilburne.

and the hundreds into tithings, composed of ten freemen, every inhabitant of which was security for the good behaviour of the other, and a man, whose credit was so low that his neighbours would not become pledges for him, was committed to prison lest he should become hurtful to the community. In Kent, the division, which in many counties was called a tithing, is termed a borow, from the Saxon word *Borh*, which signifies a pledge or surety, and the chief of the pledges a borsholder, or boroughs-ealder, that is, the discreetest man in the borough, or tithing, as in cities he is called the ealderman, or alderman.

Hawkherst is indebted, for a peculiarly accurate topographical description, to Richard Kilburne, esq. who was a resident in the village at a house called Fowlers, and published a Survey of the County in 1659. The ancient state of the place must be almost a transcript from his work, with additional observations, that may serve to elucidate his account.

As he wrote in the time of the Commonwealth, his expressions on ecclesiastical jurisdiction are all in the past tense; and of Hawkherst he says, this parish was in the deanery of Charing, and diocese of Canterbury. The church stands in the hundred of Great Barnfield, and was called St. Lawrence. He observes, that the parish is very populous, and one of the most numerous as to inhabitants of any in the county not having a town in it. Upon a collection of the number of communicants, in every parish in the county, he says, four parishes only exceeded it, which were Maidstone, Cranbrook, Feversham, and Goudherst, all having towns in them. There is no reason to believe that the number of inhabitants have decreased since Mr. Kilburne's publication. The number of adults, which are, it is presumed, the persons meant in Kilburne's estimate, have been, within these few years, calculated at 1300. He complains of the very great charge for the maintenance of the poor, which was, in the year 1653,

209/.

209*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* and, in the year 1549, only 7*s.* 2*d.* but he does not appear to advert to the different system introduced by the celebrated act of Elizabeth, which totally altered the state of the parochial poor, and Hawkherst might also receive a large burthen of poor's rate by the decrease of the woollen manufactory, which was brought from Flanders under the patronage of king Edward III. and at that time began to decline by a removal into other counties. To this source the weald of Kent owed much of its wealth and prosperity. The old farm-houses are in the Flemish style of building, and many of the rooms still shew that they have been used in the various branches of the manufacture of woollens. Lambard, who wrote in 1570, discussing the artificers of the county, says, "they be makers of coloured
 " woollen cloths, in which last feat they excel, from whom is drawn
 " both sufficient store to furnish the wear of the best sort of our na-
 " tion at home, and great plenty to be transported to other foreign
 " countries abroad." A few clothiers remained at Cranbrook till the beginning of the present century, and there was one left within the last thirty years, but the whole race of manufacturers are now extinct.

Kentish grey is still the county livery, and, at the general election in 1790, the three gentlemen managers for the candidates were dressed in an uniform of that colour.

Hawkherst was a dependent on the manor of Wye, and consequently became a part of that vast estate with which William the Norman endowed his abbey of Battel in Sussex, founded by him for the repose of the souls of the multitude killed in the action of 1067, which secured him the sovereignty of England. Kilburne gives the following account of the tenure: "Most of the lands in
 " this parish are within the liberty of Wye (anciently belonging to the
 " abbey of Battel in Sussex); and Odo, abbot of Battel, and the
 " convent there, by charter without date, granted to the owners of
 " the

“ the said lands, by the name of his men of Hawkherst, and their
“ heirs, the ville of Hawkherst, paying yearly ten pounds, twenty
“ hens, and two hundred and fifty eggs, with divers restrictions.
“ But, afterwards, December 5, 14 Edward I. Henry, abbot of
“ Battel, and the convent there, granted to them and their heirs (by
“ the name of their tenants of Hawkherst) all the tenements there
“ which they held of his fee, viz. in the dens of Hawkherst, Am-
“ boldessers, Delmynden, Sessele, Bertylts, Fissendenne, Markdenne,
“ Frechele, Wynesle, Wynchenden, Chittenden, Witheringhope, in
“ houses, gardens, lands and woods, plaines, meadow, and pastures,
“ to hold freely and in peace, paying yearly ten pounds, twenty-five
“ hens, and two hundred and fifty eggs, and reserved suit to his
“ court of Wye from three weeks to three weeks by two men only ;
“ and for that the abbot took into his hands Anglinge, which for-
“ merly was part of this tenancy ; he, by composition, abated forty
“ shillings per annum of the ten pounds, and, for the hens and eggs
“ so reserved, they compounded to pay him yearly eight shillings ;
“ and for the said suit of court six shillings and eight-pence ; so the
“ moneys paid by them ever since (to the abbey ; and, the since
“ owners of the Wye), is eight pounds fourteen shillings and eight-
“ pence.

“ And the tenants usually kept here a three weeks court, called
“ Slipmill, otherwise Moorhouse-court, for determination of matters
“ under forty shillings ; and accordingly such a court was in my me-
“ mory there kept, though now discontinued.

“ They had also power, by the grant last before mentioned, to
“ have a reeve of their own, and they had at least once in every year
“ a court, which was also called by the name aforesaid, where they
“ did apportion the rent aforesaid, payable to the abbey, and choose
“ their reeve, which court is still there kept usually once in the
“ year, about Easter, but for sixty years last past was styled The

“ Court

“ Court Baron of the Lord, and there they presented the alteration
 “ of tenancies, and elected two beadles to gather the rent. On the
 “ 3d of June, in the 33d year of the reign of king Henry VIII. that
 “ king granted the royalty and rents at Hawkherst belonging to
 “ Wye to Sir John Baker; and on the 20th of March, in the first
 “ year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, she granted Wye to Henry
 “ lord Hunsdon. Afterwards a controversy arose between the tenants
 “ at Hawkherst and Sir Richard Baker (heir of the said Sir John)
 “ touching the validity of their former grants; and January 31, in
 “ the tenth year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, the tenants obtained
 “ a decree against the said Sir Richard for quiet, enjoying their te-
 “ nements aforesaid as formerly; and, on February 12 following, the
 “ said Sir Richard released his claim to them, and after suits between
 “ the heir of the said Sir John, and the heir of the said lord Hunsdon,
 “ touching the royalties and rent aforesaid, the said heir of Baker on
 “ the 10th of November, in the 17th year of the reign of James I. granted
 “ his right in the same to the said heir of the said lord Hunsdon, so that
 “ now the lord of Wye is owner of the said royalties of rent there.”

The court thus recited by Kilburne continues to be kept under the
 same form, for the purpose of presenting alterations of tenancies and
 the choice of reeves, who collect the reserved rent still paid to the
 Finch family, who are owners of the royalty, but have no other claim
 on the property of the freeholders. George Finch Hatton, esq. is
 the present possessor of this right.

The church is a handsome stone building, much superior in its
 structure to most village churches, which may easily be imagined
 from its having been founded by the abbot of Battel in the reign of
 Edward III. The building at the East end, which was noticed in
 Gent. Mag. LVII. p. 564, 659, cannot ever have been a chapel, as
 its dimensions are too small, its situation precisely against the altar,
 and no appearance of any roof; it has most probably been a burial-
 place,

place, at the time of the foundation of the church, with which it appears coeval, for some great family of the place.

Kilburne says, “ The arms of Edward III. and his sons are at the
“ top of the furthest of the three North windows in the North chapel
“ or chancel there ; and the arms of the abbey of Battel, and of Etch-
“ ingham, and Pashley, two ancient families then residing in the ad-
“ joining parishes, are in glass at the top of the first of the said three
“ windows ; and on the great beam at the top of the said chancel was
“ carved the arms of Congeherst, a very ancient family in the parish.”

The name of Congeherst was extinct in the parish about the middle of the sixteenth century, by the marriage of the heiress into the family of Scott, but the house still remains, bearing the family name ; and the site of a former mansion can be pointed out, which was burnt by the Danes at a very early period. In the North windows of the chapel before-mentioned, were also pictures in glass of twelve men and their wives kneeling, which were imperfect in the time when Kilburne wrote, and have now very little remaining. They were traditionally reported to be the owners of the twelve dens held of Wye ; but he justly apprehends that was not the history of them, and that they were twelve principal inhabitants of the parish at the time the church was founded ; the names he has preserved are, the Christian name of the first *Robert* ; the second *Joan*, the wife of the said Robert, and *Simon* their son, principal founder of the said chapel ; the third illegible ; the fourth *Ockley* ; the fifth *Delmynden* ; the sixth *Siesley* ; the seventh *Cockshott* ; the eighth *Badcock* ; the ninth *Bartilt* ; the other three are not discernible. It is probable, that the division of the manor into dens was guided by the lands held by some of these ancient families, and of the others which are not names of dens — there are still lands in the parish which bear the names of *Ockley*, *Cockshott*, and *Badcock*. In the middle window of the great chancel were, according to Kilburne, paintings in glass of the good kings of Israel,
and

and of the prophets in their times. These, he recites, had been lately defaced and spoiled, a consequence of the unsettled state of government at that period, and the irregular method in which the orders which came from the state were executed. The arms of king Edward and his sons are still perfect in the Easternmost window of the North chancel ; and the arms of Battel *, Etchingham, and Pashley, are in good preservation on the Westernmost. The kneeling figures remain at the top of the middle window ; but they have been somewhat defaced, and the remainder mentioned by Kilburne are totally destroyed, except some ornamented pieces, which it is presumed served to complete and fill up the window in the spaces between the figures. In the South chancel of the church was anciently the image of the Virgin Mary ; and several tapers or lights were also in this church, called the Beam light, the Paschal light, Judas candles, St. James light, and St. Lawrence light ; and over the North porch of this church is a room called by Kilburne, the treasury, wherein were repositied in a chest several antient writings concerning the tenants of the twelve dens in and near this parish in Wye liberty, and concerning other lands and rights of the parishioners. This chest does not now remain in this dark abode : either some village Chatterton has been in search for poems of the 15th century, or the parishioners have cautiously removed it to a place of greater security.

A modern mahogany screen has been erected round the altar of the church, which, though it is a neat piece of workmanship, does not seem much to accord with the general style and architecture of the church.

* These are blazoned by Hasted, II. p. 73, note s. Quarterly. 1, 4, a sword, Arg. 2, 3, a crown, Or. According to bishop Tanner, they are Gules, a cross, Or, between two swords and two crowns. The swords are pomelled, Or.

The other coat given by Hasted is fretty Az. three fleurs de lis Or.



The family of most consequence in the place, of the name of *Boys*, came into the parish from the Eastern part of the county, according to Kilburne, about the year 1571, by purchase of the mansion of Edward Roberts, whose father, John Roberts, was buried at the foot of the reading-desk *, with an effigy and inscription of brass, which last was taken away during the Civil Wars; the stone remains, with two elegant figures in brass †. The engraving of the figures, with the drapery, is perfectly fresh, though from Kilburne's account it has been subject to the wear of feet for two centuries and a half. Beneath the principal figures, which are a man and woman with hands raised and clasped in a praying attitude, are two separate groupings of six children in the same posture; those under the female figure, from their dress and long hair, are easily discovered to be girls, and those under the man, the engraving on which is more worn, appear to be boys. Four Saxon shields, all on separate pieces of brass, form a corresponding ornament to the figures. Many memorials of the interment of the Boys family, for the last two centuries, are in the South isle, the first of which appears to be Richard Boys, 1605; and the last is a marble on a pillar over the family seat in the church, with the following inscription:

“ In memory
of Samuel Boys, esq. He lieth buried in the
South porch; died at Salehurst in Snssex,
29 January, 1753, aged 71; married Jane, one
of the daughters of Sir Richard Newdigate, of
Arbury in Warwickshire, Baronet.

And
of his eldest son, Samuel Boys, esq.

* The situation of the pulpit and reading-desk has been since altered, for the greater convenience of the church.

† See the annexed plate.

who lieth at his right hand. He died
at Hawkherst 16 May, 1772, aged 66.
He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter and
coheiress of Thomas Hicks, of Munfield in Sussex, gent."

In the church are also flat stones in memory of the families of Mercer; Austen, 1610; Pix, 1668; Woodgate, 1680; Courthorpe, 1740.

Before the altar is a small stone, on which is inscribed :

" Here lies the body of the Rev. Mr.
Thomas Glover, of this parish, vicar,
who died October 9, 1737, aged 33 years.
He was nephew to the late Bishop Spratt."

Richard Kilburne, esq. author of the Survey, is buried in the North chancel, with his daughter Brewer and her son. On a flat stone over his grave is inscribed,

" Hic jacet Ricardus Kilburne, arm.
Quinquies Principalis Hospitii
Stapulensis, London :
Patriæ ornamentum, emolumentum,
ob. 15 Nov. 1678, æt. 74.

In the middle aisle, under a plain stone, on which is merely inscribed his name, and the year of his death, 1718, is buried Sir Thomas Dunk, knt. a considerable benefactor to the parish.

An oval marble tablet has lately been erected, on the ornamental part of which it is sufficient to observe, that it is executed by the first statuary of the age, Bacon. On the upper part of the oval is a Bible, open at the first page of the New Testament, surrounded by rays of light, with the motto running through it, God said, " Let
" there

“ there be light, and there was light.” And on a black marble in the centre :

“ Nathaniel Lardner, D. D.

Drew his first and latest breath at Hall House in this parish.

Benevolent as a Gentleman,
indefatigable as a Scholar,
exemplary as a Minister,
wherever he resided.

His Usefulness was prolonged to his 86th year,
when,

having established the Historical Credibility
of the Records of our common salvation,
without partiality, and beyond reply,
their promises became his eternal inheritance,

July 8, 1768.

From reverence to the memory of his uncle,
these truths were inscribed by David Jennings, 1789.”

The parish hath several lands belonging to it, left to pious uses, which are recited on a table fixed in the church ; the words of Kilburne are, “ Henry Parson, and William his sonne, 13^o Junij, 22d
“ Edward IV. conveyed to the use of the parish for ever a messuage
“ and acre of land, which messuage was of late times called The
“ Church House, and adjoineth to the church-yard; and the rent
“ thereof, and of the land thereunto, is employed towards repara-
“ tion of the church, and upon part of the land is erected an alms-
“ house, which is employed to the use of the poor of this parish ;
“ and in the close of the said messuage is another house usually
“ called The Sexton’s House, the same having been for about sixty
“ years past used for the habitation of the sexton of the parish,
“ and these messuages and lands are enjoyed accordingly. Likewise
“ Thomas Iddendon, 3 April, 1556, willed several messuages and
“ lands,

“ lands, lying at and near a place in this parish called High Street, to be
 “ for ever employed for pious uses in that parish ; and the same being
 “ detained from the parish several years, at length, upon an inquisition
 “ taken before commissioners for charitable uses, 12 December, 14
 “ king James, the aforesaid will and charitable uses were found, and
 “ the said messuages and lands (by those commissioners, 29 April
 “ following), decreed to be enjoyed and employed accordingly ; the
 “ trustees and their manner of employment thereby settled, and the
 “ same are enjoyed accordingly. Also Thomas Gibbon, 3^o Decem-
 “ ber, 15^o Eliz. granted to trustees for ever an annuity of forty-three
 “ shillings and four pence per annum out of his messuage, and three
 “ pieces of land upon Amboldesherst in that parish, containing seven
 “ acres, which annuity was purchased from him by the parishioners,
 “ to be employed towards the maintenance of the said church, and
 “ the same is enjoyed and employed accordingly.”

A more splendid modern benefaction is also recorded on the table in the church :

“ Sir Thomas Dunk, knight, by his will dated 8 July, 1718,
 “ gave the sum of 200*l*. to be employed, together with the like
 “ sum of queen Anne’s bounty, in the purchase of land in fee sim-
 “ ple, for the augmentation of the living of the minister of this pa-
 “ rish and his successors for ever, which said lands were accordingly
 “ purchased, and are situate in Peppermill-lane and at Delmynden-
 “ Green ; he also gave the further sum of 2000*l*. to be laid out in
 “ building and endowing a school and six alms-houses at Highgate (in
 “ this parish) ; the school-master to receive 16*l*. and the alms-people
 “ 6*l*. per annum ; which said school and alms-houses were accordingly
 “ erected and endowed by William Richards, esq. his executor, who, to
 “ make the building and endowment more complete, added to the said
 “ 2000*l*. above 600*l*. of his own money ; and did, moreover, by his will,
 “ order, that a further sum, not exceeding 250*l*. should be laid out
 “ in

“ in the purchase of lands, the income of which should be employed
 “ to augment the salary and pensions payable to the school-master and
 “ alms-people ; in pursuance of which bequest the right honourable
 “ George Dunk earl of Halifax, who married Anne, the only daugh-
 “ ter and heiress of the said William Richards, in the year 1753, did,
 “ in consideration of the said 250*l.* (and of 70*l.* more raised by the
 “ sale of timber from Tilden estate, settled before on the said charity)
 “ convey to the trustees of the same and their successors for ever,
 “ a messuage and lands lying near Fourthrowes, in the parishes
 “ of Hawkherst and Sandherst, of the yearly value of 16*l.* by which
 “ means the salary of the school-master was augmented to 20*l.* and the
 “ pensions of the alms-people to 7*l.* each, per annum.”

The school and alms-houses thus endowed are a plain and handsome
 brick structure, situated by the road side at Highgate (Sir Thomas in
 his will having expressed a wish that the objects of his bounty should
 rather look for their comfort within than without the building) ; and
 are under the management of respectable trustees.

Kilburne complains very heavily of the poor provision which was
 made in his time for the parochial minister, and gives the following ac-
 count of its state from the dissolution of the abbey :

“ The abbot of Battel was patron of the church, and, till the disso-
 “ lution or surrender of that abbey, there was always a rector incum-
 “ bent, of one of which number, viz. John Crane, a monument of
 “ brass, mentioning the same, was, till of late times, upon a fair tomb-
 “ stone in the great chancel of this church ; and one Henry Simons,
 “ at the time of the appropriation herein after-mentioned, was parson
 “ incumbent there ; but Trin. 30 Hen. VIII. the abbey being surren-
 “ dered to the king, he 19th Martij that year granted the patronage
 “ and presentations of the rectory to Charles Brandon duke of Suffolk,
 “ and that king, 11 December, 38 of his raigne, granted the parson-
 “ age to the dean and chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, and appro-
 “ priated

“ priated the same thereunto immediately after the death of Simons
 “ the incumbent, and appointed, that the said dean and chapter should
 “ present an able clarke to the ordinary, who should be named perpe-
 “ tual vicar of this church, and should bear all charges, except repa-
 “ ration of the chancel, and should have a dwelling, 12*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*
 “ yearly pension, and should pay the king yearly for his tenths 25*s.* 1*d.*
 “ and be charged with first fruits, which being done without the con-
 “ sent of the said duke, and no act done by him that appeareth, no
 “ vicar was endowed, but the office of curate was ever since given by
 “ the said dean and chapter as a donative, and no first fruits were
 “ paid, but only 11*s.* 8*d.* as a stipendiary.”

He proceeds to recite, that the dean and chapter granted, 10 Feb.
 3 Philip and Mary, to Sir William Peter, £.8 *per ann.* out of the
 parsonage, for the churchwardens to receive and pay to the vicar;
 and Mr. Edward Godwin, the stipendiary incumbent, who was suspen-
 ded under the ordinance of the Long Parliament, received of the dean
 and chapter 20*l.* per annum. salary, the profits of the Easter book,
 then of some value, some rooms in the parsonage house, called the
 vicarage rooms, a small field called the vicarage croft, and the herbage
 of the church-yard. On his suspension, the parish was fourteen
 months without a minister, and were then obliged to provide one at
 their own charge. They elected Mr. Nicholas Thoroughgood, of
 New Inn Hall, Oxford, a native of the county, and a man of consi-
 derable learning and eminence. The parishioners made up his income
 100*l.* per ann. but, upon obtaining an augmentation from the State of
 50*l.* per ann. their subscriptions were withdrawn. Mr. Thoroughgood
 continued at Hawkherst near seven years, and quitted it because he
 did not chuse to take the engagement in 1651, which was a declaration
 of allegiance to the Commonwealth, as established without the king
 and the lords, an oath that was very generally objected to by the Pres-
 byterian clergy who had received their preferment under the Long Par-
 liament.

liament. After this period the augmentation from the State was withdrawn; and at the time of Kilburne's narrative the income, from the decrease of value in the Easter book, was but 24*l.* per ann. At the Restoration, it may be presumed, the curacy reverted into its old channel, and it appears, that Mr. Ephraim Bothel was ejected from it by the act of Uniformity in 1662. The incumbents of many benefices in the neighbourhood, viz. Cranbrook, Benenden, Biddenden, Goudherst, Lamberherst, Horsmanden, Rolvenden, Stapleherst, and Tenterden, all adjacent towns and villages, are mentioned in Calamy's list, as ministers silenced by that act; and there is still a considerable number of Dissenters in those places, particularly in the parish of Cranbrook.

The value of the curacy at Hawkherst, with the augmentations by queen Anne's bounty, and Sir Thomas Dunk's benefaction, has, doubtless, increased in some proportion with the wealth and the opulence of the place. Whatever it may at present be, no one, who is acquainted with the amiable manners and excellent character of the incumbent, will deem it more than adequate to the attachment he has shewn the parish in relinquishing all other claims to preferment, and, during the course of a very long residence, devoting the whole of his time to the clerical duty of the place.

Hawkherst had anciently a market, by a grant of the 5th of Edward I. to the abbey of Battel, which was kept every Tuesday upon the green against the house of the family of Boys; but it had, in Kilburne's time, been long discontinued, though there were persons who remembered the market-cross; and he writes, that in his own recollection a small house, called St. Margaret's Cross, was remaining, in which the corn was put which was unsold on market-days during the existence of the market, and that some of the shops were still standing.

A fair is yearly held in the parish, near the church, on the 10th of August, St. Lawrence's day, the patron of the church, under a grant from king Edward I. the 5th of March, 1277, to the abbey of Battel,

to

to hold for three days, the vigil, day, and morrow of the saint ; but, as the religious part of the ceremonial ceased, and fairs were converted to civil purposes alone, it has been for more than a century held on the Saint's day and the following day only.

Another fair is mentioned by Kilburne, having been kept on the 14th of February, in a field near the Moorhouse, a large house some time since pulled down, a little to the Westward of the church ; but that fair had, when he published, been for many years discontinued.

There were anciently five crosses, which Kilburne also terms watch-houses ; one at Badcock's Green, called Badcock's Cross ; another between Highgate and High-street, at the West corner of the turning to Slipmill, formerly called Cook's Cross, and afterwards Philpot's Cross ; a third at Skelcrouch, at the turning in the road from Kent bridge to Hawkherst church, called Skelcrouch Cross ; another at Highgate ; and the fifth at the Four Trowes, called Fourthrowes, or Pipsden Cross ; which two last remained when Kilburne wrote. It is easy to be apprehended, that a parish connected with a religious institution, wealthy and important, like the abbey of Battel, would not be deficient in those means which were accustomed to exhort to piety, in the dark ages of Popery. Such were these crosses. As the light of the Reformation had destroyed the objects of superstition, the remains of the structure might be converted into watch-houses, which will account for Kilburne's using them as synonymous phrases for the same building. He mentions also a watch-house and beacon in a field near the Fourthrowes, which was one of those erected in the counties of Kent and Sussex, by order of the lord lieutenant, on the alarm of the Spanish Armada in 1588. It connected the chain between Tenterden and Brightling, where there were also beacons ; and the field appears well adapted for the purpose, as the light might be seen at sea Eastward, and to the center of the county Westward.

That



Vera Effigies Richardi Kilburne Armigeri //
Topographiae Cantianae Authoris //
Ætatis suæ 52. 24. Septemb. 1657 J. Crosc. sculp.

That part of the parish called *Highgate*, which the modern road-books, following the provincial mode of speech, have termed *Hye-gate*, is named from one of the gates which was placed there to inclose the commons belonging to the tenants of Wye; and being on a higher hill than the others, the gate and houses adjoining were called *Highgate*. Kilburne concludes his account with a description of an alteration made by the erection of a new bridge in the road from Hawkherst to Hurst Green, by which the ground of the parish was apparently taken away, but the site is only interesting by a view of the spot, and the information valuable only as a parochial record.

To the work of this accurate topographer is prefixed a print, engraved by T. Cröse*, in a style rather superior to most of the book engravings of his day, representing him in his lawyer's gown, broad band, short hair, pointed beard and whiskers, in his 52d year, Sept. 24, 1657; and, as there is a character in the countenance, it is, most probably, what it is styled, "*Vera Effigies Richardi Kilburne, Armigeri.*"

For the state of the parish during nearly a century and a half, no resource is to be had from Kilburne. The weald of Kent and Sussex, one of the most delightful parts of England, was for a long time accessible to travellers only in the summer months, from the miserable state of the roads, which, being naturally made on a clayey soil, overshadowed with wood, and very narrow, were ill calculated for any carriage but the common waggon of the country, which was in most places drawn by oxen, and even the horse-track required a stout and active beast to get on with any thing like expedition. The project of turnpikes, though a heavy expence to the country, has rendered

* This is probably Thomas Cross, mentioned in lord Orford's Catalogue of Engravers, p. 50, between 1646 and 1684. Granger gives it *Cross*.

the roads (except in very rainy seasons) excellent, and by the addition of a soft stone of that country, which soon grinds to a sand, and forms a good mixture with the native clay. A great part of the village of Hawkherst is pleasingly situated on the ridge of a hill, many of the houses commanding on both sides an extent of view from ten to fifteen miles, diversified by innumerable breaks of ground, much woodland, small inclosures, interspersed with cottages; and possessing most of the requisites of a perfect landscape, except a large stream of water, it has been sought for of late years as a very desirable residence.

Elford, the mansion of the family of Boys, has a just claim of preference in the village. It is a large building near the church, with some modern rooms, which, though they add to the convenience, do not take from the respectability of the antient structure. The present possessor, Samuel Boys, Esq. an active and useful magistrate in the counties of Kent and Sussex, served the office of high-sheriff for the county of Kent in 1782.

The owner of *Hawkherst Place* is apportioned in the largest sum of the reserved rent to the manor of Wye of any of the freeholders of Hawkherst. This house was anciently in the family of Pix, a name once of much consequence in the parish, since which time the estate has been in the Peckham family, of Iridge in Saleherst, Sussex; but, that family being now extinct in the male branch, it descends by marriage to a gentleman of the name of Micklethwaite. The house, however, has been unoccupied, except as a farm-house, for a long time, and is very much out of repair.

Hall House, the lands of which lie between the two estates just mentioned, was for above two centuries in the family of Mercer. Thomas Mercer, the possessor of the estate in 1490, left a bequest to the altar of Hawkherst, and for the finding a lamp burning in St. Mary's chapel of Hawkherst for twenty years. By purchase, in 1662, it came into the possession of Nathaniel Collyer, esq. formerly a grocer
in

in London; and from him to his grandson, Dr. Nathaniel Lardner, whose merits, as a writer on Ecclesiastical History and the Evidences of Christianity, are universally acknowledged. Dr. Lardner, being a single man, left his property at Hawkherst to his sister's daughter and her husband, Mr. Joseph Jennings, who died in the year 1782; and it is now in the possession of his son.

Tongs, the residence of Sir Thomas Dunk, is a small modern built house, in a retired part of the parish, and conveys no idea of the magnificence which has since been attached to the name of Dunk by the addition of Montague. Sir Thomas was a native of the parish, and acquired a large fortune by the trade of a saddler, in Westminster. He left a sum of money amongst his poor relations, and other persons at Hawkherst, besides the testimony of affection to the place of his nativity, in the endowment of the school and alms-houses, which have been before-mentioned. The entail of his estate devolved upon the daughter of Mr. Richards, his executor, whose family was the first in the remainder created by Sir Thomas's will. This lady marrying the earl of Halifax, and his lordship assuming the name of Dunk, which was the condition upon which the Berkshire estates were to be taken, the property at Hawkherst came into the possession of lord Halifax, who, when he disposed of the freehold estates there, still retained the fee-simple of the mansion-house, granting a long lease, which made it equivalent in value; but, Sir Thomas Dunk having annexed the visitorship of the foundation to the possessor of his house, it still remains with the earl of Sandwich, who married the daughter of lord Halifax. No clause appears in Sir Thomas Dunk's will to oblige the possessor of his fortune to assume the trade of a saddler, which from common report the publick seem to have apprehended. *Tongs*, after some intermediate changes, is now the property of Frederick Wilson, esq. a gentleman formerly in the India service.

The

The turnpike road leading from London to Rye, branching from the Hastings road at a hamlet called Flimwell, runs through this parish, and, winding most part of the way for four miles, on the top of the hill commands the view of it on both sides. At the first entrance, on the South side of the road, is a good brick house, built by William Gray, a smuggler, who died under sentence of transportation in Newgate. The exploits and depredations of this gang of banditti is within the memory of many persons. They travelled in large bodies, with fire arms and excellent horses, till at length they became so great a nuisance to the country, and so very prejudicial to the revenue, that about the year 1748 Government found itself compelled to exercise the strong hand of power against them, and many of them suffered capitally for offences which richly deserved the utmost severity of the law. By this means the gang was broken, and, though the contraband trade is still very prevalent on the coast of Kent and Sussex, yet the smugglers have never presumed to conduct themselves with the violence and outrage they did before that period. Of their expedition to Goudherst some account is given in the *Gent. Mag.* vol. LV. p. 679. The writer does not mention that two of the smugglers were killed by the spirited exertions of the towns-people, who defended themselves in the church. Gray's house, which he built on a small common, called Seacock's Heath, by inclosures and plantations has been rendered a very pleasing spot. From the height of its situation it commands a view, though very distant, of the sea, and is now the property of John Hogarth, esq. a gentleman returned from India.

A mile farther on the same side of the road, the late John Baker, esq. receiver-general for the county, built a good modern brick house in the place of an old family one; but Mr. Baker dying in 1774, his family have not resided there for any time since.

This

This part of the village, from its situation is termed *Highstreet*, and the continuation of the road on the gentle ascent of a small hill is called Highgate, of which Kilburne has explained the etymology. At Highgate are the alms-houses and school founded by Sir Thomas Dunk, a new house built by Mr. Richard Turner, an inn, and some other buildings and shops, forming a sort of village within itself. At a point of the hill, which commands the best prospect over the adjacent grounds into Sussex, is a new house erected by Charles Wilkins, esq. a gentleman whose name is in equal fame and esteem with the publick for his deep researches into Asiatic literature. When the grounds about his house are laid out in the style and with the taste he proposes, they will form a plantation of pleasure-ground, which can scarcely be exceeded in such an extent of land. The general view will also be advantaged by plantations which are forming on the opposite side of the road, about the house formerly Kilburne's, now the property of Sir John Brewer Davis, knt. who from his second name, it is presumed, is a descendant in the female line from the author of the Survey. Sir John resides at another seat in the Eastern part of the county, but his house at Hawkherst has lately received many considerable improvements, and may now rank with the most convenient and considerable in the place. There are some other gentlemen of considerable landed estate resident in the parish, John Dunmole Mercer, esq. Mercer Durant, esq. and John Osborne, esq. of Lilliesden; but, except the last house (which is a new built one, and the grounds disposed in the modern taste), there is nothing remarkable about their residence to render them the subject of description.

The soil at Hawkherst is for the most part a clay, which is generally manured for the arable land with lime or marle; but it must be acknowledged the improvements of modern agriculture have not
made

made much progress, and that farming in that country is at a low ebb. This arises partly from the situation, which being very hilly, the fields in small inclosures, and much wood in the hedge-rows, is ill disposed for corn land. Another reason is the facility with which money has been procured by other means: for most part of the present century, the labouring people could find employ and profit in the smuggling trade; and, since that has been in some measure checked, the culture of hops has succeeded as the source of much wealth in the weald of Kent and Sussex, and to this the attention of the farmer is almost wholly directed.

The place is well supplied with water, and there are some chalybeate springs, the most excellent of which is in a field on the East side of the lane leading from High-street to the Windmill, which possesses the same properties as that at Tunbridge Wells.

It were unjust to quit the account of this parish without a tribute to the memory of Mr. Thomas Redford, a respectable inhabitant. He was a man of strong natural understanding, and had by constant application acquired much knowledge; as the information he possessed, however, was all his own attainment, he had often formed sentiments that were peculiar, and which increased acquaintance with science, and commerce with the world, sometimes compelled him to alter.

He was for many years assistant to the Receiver-General of the county; and his unceasing punctuality and strict integrity recommended him to be agent for several noblemen and gentlemen who had estates in the neighbourhood, and who did not reside; in this capacity his letters were always well written, and a proof how much superior native good sense is to unmeaning civility and parade.

He was occasionally an anonymous writer in the Gentleman's Magazine, and his style and character are sufficiently marked to those who were acquainted with him. A Disquisition on Spiders darting their
Webs

Webs was one of his subjects of controversy *, in which, like many theorists, he maintained the impossibility of the fact till experience had convinced him of the fallacy of his principle.

He died, after a long and painful illness, October 1774, at the age of 67.

Such a man was truly the ornament of his native village.

5 Sept. 1792.

* Vol. XXXVI. p. 580. XXXVII. pp. 70. 344. 438; and the defences of the fact, Ib. XXXVII. pp. 101. 285.



THE
HISTORY
OF THE
MANOR, AND MANOR-HOUSE,
OF
SOUTH WINFIELD,
IN
DERBYSHIRE.

IN A LETTER TO THE EARL OF LEICESTER.

By THOMAS BLORE, Esq.

OF THE SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, AND F. S. A.

AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTY OF RUTLAND."

[FIRST PRINTED AS NO. III. OF
MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES,
IN CONTINUATION OF THE
BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA BRITANNICA.]

The Second Edition.

" — Time has seen, that lifts the low
And level lays the lofty brow ;
Has seen this broken pile complete,
Big with the vanity of state." *DYER'S Grongar Hill.*

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1816.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

GEORGE FERRARS TOWNSHEND,

EARL OF LEICESTER,

BARON DE FERRARS OF CHARTLEY, BOURGCHIER, LOUVAINE,
BASSET OF DRAYTON, AND COMPTON OF COMPTON,

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

THE delight with which the generality of thinking men treasure memorials of past ages, the eagerness with which they pursue the traces of ancient times and manners, and the pious regard which leads them to preserve the monuments of the splendour and the magnificence of their ancestors, have given to topography a respectable station amongst the stores of literature. The mite I now offer, to encrease the store of topography, has for it's subject a manor and mansion heretofore the inheritance and residence of several illustrious persons. In the history of their possessors will be found an account of your Lordship's ancestors, the Peverells, which, without a discovery of new information, differs materially, and, I am persuaded, on just grounds, from Sir William Dugdale and our other writers, in the assignation of the facts recorded respecting that part of your Lordship's family.

B

The

The manor of South Winfield in Derbyshire, whose manor house was once the most stately residence in that part of the kingdom, (not coming within the description of or accounted a Castle) though it has not been totally neglected by topographers, has, perhaps, been less attended to, by them, than any other place of equal consequence in this country. The manor house, great even in its decline, is now swiftly mouldering to the dust from which it was raised. Some assaults during the civil wars of the last century, and the more deliberate attacks of its subsequent owners, have brought it to a state of irreparable ruin: and my wish to preserve a more correct account of the succession of the possessors of the manor, with a more accurate and particular description of the manor house than hath hitherto been published, and to give to the world a specimen of what it is my intention to offer in the History of the County of Derby, (for the First Part of which my Proposals have some time been circulated) have induced me to the present publication.

Winfield is a name common in England, said to be derived from the circumstance of a victory obtained at the place to which it is given. It is yet, however, to be discovered that a battle was fought at this place anterior to its receiving the name; and it may not be amiss to observe, that we rarely meet with a field of victory whose honour is not tarnished by its having been also the field of defeat.

Another attempt has been made to derive the name of Winfield from its having been a vineyard, (*Campus Vini*;¹ i. e. Wine-field) but we never yet heard of a vineyard at Winfield, except in the conjectures of etymologists; nor has any good reason been given to the publick to induce

¹ Archaeologia, Vol. I. p. 330.

to a belief that any ever did exist there; and this derivation I therefore think is as improbable as the former.

Thus much for former conjectures: I will now offer what further occurs to me respecting this name.

Win or Whin is the more ancient name for the *Genista Spinosæ*, i. e. Furze or Gorse; and by the name of Win or Whin that plant is still commonly known in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and other counties of England farther northward. And as there yet remains much gorse on the hill eastward of and facing to South Winfield, and some within an hundred yards of the manor house, it seems not unlikely that the etymon of the name may be Whin-field or Gorse-field. But there is another derivation of the name, which is not very far fetched, and which must therefore be noticed. *Guin* in the British signifies water; and probably the Norman Clerk who made the minutes from which Domesday Book was transcribed, writing from the ear, would write it Win, and then the etymon may be Guin-field or Water-field; which conjecture is somewhat strengthened by the frequent floods from the little river that runs through Winfield, and which overflows the valley so much, that three or four times every winter the pavement of the church of Winfield is nearly a foot under water.

In Derbyshire there are two manors of the name of Winfield: viz. South Winfield, and North Winfield. Of the manor of North Winfield I shall briefly observe, that it was, at the time of the General Survey of England, made by order of King William the Conqueror, and entered in the Book of Domesday, dependant on the manor of Pinneslei, now a trifling village called Pillefley, and then of the fee of Walter D'Eincourt, and that it long continued in the possession of his descendants. This notice it was necessary to take of North Winfield, to prove more decisively

that the following account, taken from Domesday Book, applies to the manor of South Winfield.—Before the time of the General Survey,¹ Elnod had a manor in Winefield *rated to the geld at two* carucates of land, the arable land whereof was three carucates: and at the time of the Survey, ROBERT held it of ALAN EARL (OF BRITANNY AND RICHMOND), *under* WILLIAM PEVEREL, and had one carucate. At the latter period there were a priest, and eight villani, and two bordarij, with three carucates, and there were four acres of meadow. The value was then as it had been before the Survey, (viz. in the time of King Edward the Confessor) twenty shillings.

This mention of William Peverell, of whose barony the manor of South Winfield afterwards appears to have been held, and the circumstance of North Winfield's being part of the D'Eincourt possessions, enable me to decide, with certainty, that the description of Winefield, here taken from the Book of Domesday, appertains to this manor, though the distinctions of North and South are not inserted in the General Survey. I must here observe, that the description of this Winfield, in the record whose authority I have cited, is given between the account of the lands of Roger de Poictou (Rogeri Piclavensis) and the account of the lands of Henry de Ferrieres. The record, after enumerating several manors of Roger de Poictou, says, “ These lands *had* Roger de Poictou: *now* they are in the possession “ of the King.”² After these words follows a blank to the bottom of the

¹ Liber Domesday, Tom. I. fo. 273. b. “ M. WINEFELD Elnod. II. car. t'ra ad g'ld. “ T'ra III. car. Rob't. ten' de Comite Alano sub Will'o Peurel & h't I. car. Ibi p'b'r & VIII “ uill'i & II. bord' cu. III. car. Ibi IIII. ac' p'ti. valuit & ual. XX. solid.” [int. 16°. & 20°. Gul. Conq.]

² Lib. Domefd. id. fo: “ Has t'ras h'b. Rog. Pictau. m°. sunt in manu Regis.”

column; and at the top of the succeeding column we have the description of this Winfield: it is therefore doubtful whether Winfield ever were part of the possessions of Roger de Poictou: but if it were, it was, after the seizure of those possessions by the King, added to the barony of William Peverell. Though, however, it may be doubtful whether Roger de Poictou ever enjoyed this manor, yet as it does not appear under the possessions of any other of the Derbyshire tenants in capite, as they are recorded in Domesday Book, it will here be proper to give some account of him.

Roger de Montgomery, a noble Norman, and a person prudent, skilful, spirited, and valiant, was amongst the Counsellors who advised William the Conqueror in the invasion of England, and led the centre of his victorious army at the battle of Hastings: for which, and for many other services, the King conferred upon him the Earldoms of Arundel and Shrewsbury. His eldest son, Robert de Belesme, succeeded him in his lands and honours in Normandy; and Hugh, second son of Earl Roger, succeeded in the Earldoms of Arundel and Shrewsbury. The latter was killed in the year 1098, [12°. Gul. Ruf.] near the sea shore, in the Isle of Anglesey, by an arrow, shot from a ship of Magnus, King of Norway; and, having no issue, his Earldoms descended to Robert his eldest brother.¹ The third son of Earl Roger, called Roger after his father, and Pictavenis, (i. e. of Poictou) from his having married a wife out of the county of Poictou, being a younger son, enjoyed no part of his father's great inheritance; but distinguishing himself in arms, received from the Conqueror the Earldom of Lancaster² and all the lands between the rivers of Ribble and Mersey in that county;³ and divers manors and lands in the

¹ Dugdale's Baronage, V. I. p. 26, 27, &c.
fo. 269. b. & 270.

² Ib. p. 32.

³ Lib. Domesd. T. I.

counties of York,¹ Nottingham,² Lincoln,³ Norfolk,⁴ Suffolk,⁵ and Essex,⁶ and four or five manors in Derbyshire.⁷

Being thus a man of great possessions, he became a considerable benefactor to the abbey founded by Earl Roger his father at Shrewsbury;⁸ and by his charter,⁹ in which he styles himself *Rogerus comes Piclavenfis*, and to which Sibilla his daughter is a witness, he gave the church of St. Mary in Lancaster and divers churches and lands to God, and the monastery of St. Martin at Sais, "*Sagiensis*," in France, (which his father and mother had restored) for the health of his soul, and of the soul of Roger Earl of Shrewsbury his father, the Countess Mabilla his mother, his brethren, and his friends. But in the year 1101, joining with his elder brother, Robert De Belesme Earl of Shrewsbury, who then took up arms against King Henry the First, in the behalf of Robert Curthose Duke of Normandy, eldest son of the Conqueror, and being vanquished in that contest, he was driven out of the kingdom for his offence, and *some of his possessions* were given, by King Stephen, or King Henry the Second, or both of them, to Ranulph Earl of Chester.¹⁰ Dugdale says "*all his possessions*" were given to the Earl of Chester: but in this he must be mistaken; for, though the Earls of Chester unquestionably enjoyed that part of his lands lying between the Ribble and the Mersey, yet none of them ever had those lands mentioned in Domesday Book to have been enjoyed by him in Derbyshire: and, indeed, the Derbyshire estates appear to have reverted to the Crown long before his unsuccessful enterprise in

¹ Lib. Domesd. T. I. fo. 332. ² Ib. fo. 290. ³ Ib. fo. 352. ⁴ Ib. Tom. II. p. 243. ⁵ Ib. p. 346,—353, & p. 281.b. ⁶ Ib. p. 89. ⁷ Ib. Tom. I. fo. 273.b.
⁸ Monasticon Anglicanum, T. I. p. 378. 380. 383. ⁹ Pat. 15. R. 2. p. 1. m. 18.—Mon. Angl. T. I. p. 566. ¹⁰ Dugdale's Baronage, V. I. p. 32, and 39.

behalf of Curthofe; and this manor, in some way, became annexed to the barony of William Peverell.

But before I proceed to speak of the Peverells, I must notice Earl Alan; under whom the manor of Winfield was at the time of the General Survey, held by Peverell. This Alan, surnamed Rufus, from his red hair, was son of Eudo Earl of Brittany in France.¹ He was from his youth valiant; and being a near neighbour to William the Conqueror, before his accession to the Crown of England, he was remarkable for the fearlessness of his carriage towards that powerful Prince.² He accompanied him in his fortunate expedition into this country, and commanded the rear of his army at the battle of Hastings:³ and in the year 1069 he was with the Conqueror at the siege of York,⁴ and was then for his great services rewarded with all the towns late of Earl Edwin (i. e. of Edwin who before the conquest was Earl of Mercia) in Yorkshire, which lands were afterwards stiled the honour of Richmond.⁵ The King also gave to him many great estates in the counties of Dorset,⁶ Hants,⁷ Cambridge,⁸ Hertford,⁹ Northampton,¹⁰ Nottingham,¹¹ Lincoln,¹² Essex,¹³ Norfolk,¹⁴ and Derby.¹⁵ He was the founder of the great abbey in the city of York, dedicated to St. Mary,¹⁶ and a benefactor to the abbey of St. Sergius and Bacchus in Normandy, by the gift of the church and tithes of Swavefey in Cambridgehire, and the tithes of many other places; which church of Swavefey, in after times, was a cell to the last mentioned abbey.¹⁷ He died

¹ ² ³ ⁴ ⁵ *Registrum Honoris de Richmond*: Dugdale's *Baronage*, V. I. p. 46: & *Lib. Domeſd. T. I. fo. 309,—313.* ⁶ *Lib. Domeſd. T. I. fo. 79.* ⁷ *Ib. fo. 44.* ⁸ *Ib. fo. 189. 193.b.—195.* ⁹ *Ib. fo. 136.b. & 137.* ¹⁰ *Ib. fo. 224.* ¹¹ *Ib. fo. 282.b.* ¹² *Ib. fo. 347, & 348.* ¹³ *Ib. Tom. II. p. 35.a. & 35.b.* ¹⁴ *Ib. p. 144,—151.b.* ¹⁵ *Ib. T. I. fo. 273.b.* ¹⁶ *Mon. Angl. T. I. p. 385, 386, 387, & 391.—and Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 46.* ¹⁷ *Mon. Angl. T. I. p. 572.*

without issue, (and probably unmarried) A. D. 1089.¹ It is said he was ever studious for peace, a great lover of the poor, an especial honourer of the religious, and that his death, without issue, occasioned no little sadness to all good people.²

I now come to the family of Peverell; of which family, the first person I meet with of this line is William Peverell, who was the natural son of William the Conqueror by the wife of Ranulph Peverell,³ and had, of the gift of his father, very considerable possessions, the principal part of which was in Nottinghamshire. And yet I am persuaded the seat of his barony was in Derbyshire; because, though Ordericus Vitalis mentions his having the custody of the newly built castle of Nottingham committed to him *by the Conqueror, in the second year of his reign*,⁴ yet no mention is made of *that* or any other Nottinghamshire castle in Domesday Book amongst his possessions; whereas, the *castle* in the Peak Forest (in Derbyshire) is expressly mentioned at the head of his manors. He had in Nottingham⁵ forty-eight houses of merchants, and twelve houses of Knights; and thirty-nine manors, with many dependant villages in Nottinghamshire:⁶ (according to Dugdale,) forty-four lordships in Northamptonshire;⁷ (according to the same,) two in Essex.⁸ He had one manor and a dependant village in Bedfordshire;⁹ two towns in Oxfordshire;¹⁰ eight manors and their dependancies in Buckinghamshire;¹¹ and, besides this manor of Winfield, twelve manors and their villages in Derbyshire.¹²

¹ Regist. Hon. de Richmond. ² Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 46. ³ ⁴ Ib. p. 436. ⁵ Lib. Domesd. T. I. fo. 280. ⁶ Ib. fo. 287. 288. ⁷ Ib. fo. 225. I say according to Dugdale; because, in Northamptonshire, manors are not specified in Domesday Book. ⁸ Lib. Domesd. T. II. p. 90. "Terra Will'i. Piperelli." ⁹ L. Domesd. T. I. fo. 212. b. ¹⁰ Ib. fo. 157. b. ¹¹ Ib. fo. 148. ¹² Ib. fo. 276.

On the rupture between King William Rufus and Robert Curthofe his elder brother, this William Peverell, with 800 men, held the castle of Helme in Normandy for the King; but, on its being besieged, was obliged to surrender it.¹

William Peverell (his son,²) in the time of King Henry the First, founded the priory at Lenton near Nottingham, for Cluniac monks, and for the health of the souls of King William and Queen Matilda, and of their *and his parents*, and of King Henry and his Queen Matilda, and of their children William and Matilda, (the latter of whom first married to the Emperor Henry IVth, and afterwards to Geoffrey Plantagenet Earl of Anjou, and by her last husband was mother of King Henry II.) and also for the health of his own soul, and of the souls of Adeline his wife, his son William, and all his (the founder's) children, he gave thereto many lands in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire,³ to which his knights and great tenants made considerable additions.⁴ He gave to the abbey of St. Mary in York, founded by Alan Earl of Brittany, eight carucates of land in Rudstan;⁵ and having founded an abbey of Black canons, in honour of St. James,⁶ near the town of Northampton, died, according to the

¹ Dug. Baron. V. I. p. 437.

² MS. Harl. in Mus. Brit. N°. 807. fo. 22. b.

³ ⁴ Mon. Angl. T. I. p. 645, & 646. & Cart. 10°. E. II. n. 50. This foundation must have been in or after the 4th year of King Henry the First; for that year the Empress Matilda was born. Speed's Hist. of Britain, p. 464.

⁵ Mon. Ang. T. I. p. 388. This donation Dugdale ascribes in his Baronage, V. I. p. 437. to William Peverell of Dover; but as there appears to have been some connexion between the Derbyshire Peverells and Alan Earl of Brittany, the founder of York Abbey, it is probable Dugdale is not in this respect correct.

⁶ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 437.—Mon. Ang. T. II. p. 49.—and Tanner's Notitia by Nafmith.

register of that abbey, cited by Thoroton, p. 488, on the 5th of the calends of February, A. D. 1113. (11. H. I.)¹

William Peverell, son I presume of the last named William, was one of the temporal lords who attended King Stephen in the great council held at Oxford in the 1st year of his reign, in which the King granted his charter of indulgences to the people and privileges to the church:² and in the 3d year of King Stephen he conducted the Nottinghamshire forces into Yorkshire against the Scots; and in that expedition he, at the famous battle fought near North Allerton in Yorkshire, called *Bellum de Standardo*, shared in the honour of a glorious victory obtained by the English under the command of William Earl of Albemarle, in the company of Robert de Ferrars, then Earl of Ferrars, and afterwards created Earl of Derby.³ But in the 5th or 6th year of King Stephen (1140) he experienced a wide reverse of fortune: for continuing firm in his attachment to the King; and the affairs of the Empress, who had then raised an army to assert her right to the Crown, taking a favourable turn; Ralph Paganell Baron of Dudley, one of her adherents, set fire to the town of Nottingham, and this William Peverell immediately afterwards fighting stoutly at Lincoln, in the army of Stephen, against the army of the Empress, headed by Robert the Consul, Earl of Gloucester, he was there taken prisoner with the King, and the government of his castle at Nottingham was given by the Empress to the before-named Ralph Paganell.⁴ But in the following
year

¹ Nota An. Dom. 1113. & An. 11. Hen. I. are not accordant. The date should probably either be A. D. 1113. & An. 14. Hen. I. or An. D. 1110. & An. 11. H. I.

² Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 437. and Holinshed, p. 365. and 366.

³ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 437. 61. and 259.

⁴ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 437, and 431.—and Speed, p. 473. I am aware this action and all the
other

year the soldiers of William Peverell by stratagem in the night recovered it again.¹

King Stephen being at Nottingham, at the very earnest entreaty of this William Peverell (the third) and of Oddona his wife, and Henry his son, confirmed to the monastery of Lenton what William Peverell, father of this William, or this William himself, or any other benefactors had given thereto.²

This William Peverell, (the third) it seems, had taken from the canons of Lenton the churches of Hecham and Randia, which had been given to them by William his father: but afterwards, repenting of what he had done, he with the consent of his heir, *William the younger*, restored them. His deed being attested by many witnesses, and, amongst others, by Robert de Heriz.³

William and Henry, the sons of the third William Peverell, it is most likely *died before him, and without issue*; for, if we attend to dates, it is a reasonable presumption that it was William Peverell the third of whom it is related that in A. D. 1153, (18°. Stephani) he poisoned Ranulph

other occurrences I have related respecting this family, except the donation to York Abbey, are annexed by Dugdale to one and the same William Peverell. But beside that the register of St. James, near Northampton, offers evidence (notwithstanding the disagreement between the year of our Lord and the year of the King's reign) that William Peverell the founder, whom for distinction I will call William Peverell the second, died in the time of King Henry 1st. it is highly improbable that the first William Peverell, who by the Conqueror, a jealous and wary man, was entrusted with the custody of the castle of Nottingham in the 2d year of his reign, should be capable of fighting stoutly for Stephen 74 years afterwards. And, indeed, I think it is evident it was not him, but his grandson, William Peverell the third, who fought for King Stephen.

¹ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 437.

² Thoroton's Nottinghamsh. p. 218.

³ Ib. p. 488.

Gernons Earl of Chester. For this crime, (says my authority) fearing the severity of Henry IId. who soon afterwards succeeded to the Crown, he fled to a monastery of his own patronage, (conjectured to be Lenton) and was there shorn a monk: but being informed King Henry, in his way from York, was about to pass through the place in which he had cloistered himself, he threw off his religious habit and privately fled, leaving his castles and possessions to the mercy of the King. What became of him afterwards I know not. But his lands were granted to John Earl of Moreton, afterwards King John.¹

Margaret, daughter and heir of William Peverell, (the third I presume) married Robert de Ferrars, the younger Earl of Derby, who in her right often stiled himself Earl of Nottingham.² But though William de Ferrars Earl of Derby, son of Robert, appears to have had the possession of the manors of Hecham (Higham Ferrars), Neobote (Newbottle), and Blisewrthe (Bliseworth), in Northamptonshire,³ which were part of the Peverell possessions, yet he was obliged partly to pay and partly to give security for 2000 marks, to have the quiet enjoyment thereof, in the 16th year of King John.⁴

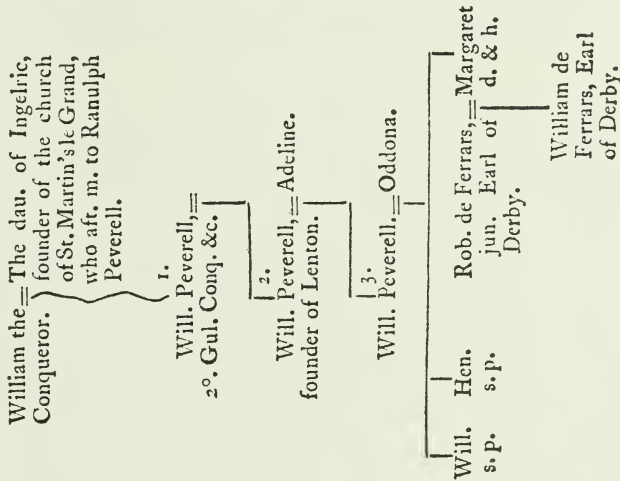
Little, however, as the family of Ferrars possessed of Peverell's lands, the descendants of Ferrars by Margaret Peverell, left off their paternal

¹ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 437.

² Dugdale in his Baronage, V. I. p. 259. says she was married to William de Ferrars, son of Robert; but, if it were so, there could have been no pretence for Robert's using the title of Earl of Nottingham. And the register of Tutbury (some parts of which I shall hereafter have occasion to introduce to the notice of the publick) proves that Dugdale is very erroneous in his account of the early descents of the Ferrars family.

³ Liber Niger Scaccarij, T. I. p. 218. & T. II. p. 639. ⁴ Oblata 1^o. Joannis, pars 1. m. 22.

arms, *Argent. six horse shoes sable*, and bare those of Peverell; viz. *Vairé or. & Gules*. Probably not admitting that Earl Ranulph was poisoned by William Peverell, and considering the charge as a pretence of Henry II. to get possession of Peverell's lands: and it is further probable, they might intend, by bearing his arms, to preserve a strong memorial of their claim to his lands as their right and inheritance. But it is my design to enter more fully into the discussion of this subject, when, in the County History which this is intended to announce, I come to the History of the Earls of the County of DERBY; of whom your Lordship is the hereditary representative. The following pedigree may probably render what I have said respecting the Peverells more intelligible.



But before the seizure of Peverell's lands, it is very likely the family of Heriz had become possessed of the manor of South Winfield, holding it of Peverell's barony. Of this family Robert de Heriz, (probably the same Robert who is mentioned in Domesday Book to hold Winfield of Earl Alan, under William Peverell) on the foundation of the priory of Lenton,

by

by the second William de Peverell, amongst the other men or great tenants of that nobleman, contributed to the provision made for the priory, by the gift of two parts of the tithe of his demesne in Hefsburna and Offecroft.¹

Ivo de Heriz, (son of Robert) in the 5th year of King Stephen, gave account of several sums of money of the old farm of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, (whereof it seems probable he had the custody) and of five great or led horses, that he might hold the land of Welgebi in fee farm; and of two of them he acquitted himself to the King at Winchester, before Miles Earl of Gloucester, and of the other three *in Normandy*.²

This Ivo gave to the canons of Lenton 10s. yearly, at the same time that Robert his father gave to them his mill at Wyftandon.³

William de Heriz, son, or grandson of Robert, gave to the canons of Darley juxta Derby, all his tenure of Derby within the borough and without; which gift was afterwards confirmed by King Henry II.⁴

William de Heriz, grandson, I presume, of the first Robert, in the 12th year of King Henry the Second held four Knights fees of the Earl of Lincoln,⁵ and in the 18th year of King Henry the Second he is returned in the scutage of the Barons who neither attended the King in person into Ireland, nor sent him soldiers nor money for that service, to have paid into the Exchequer 4l. for his Knight's fees.⁶ After this his lands were seized into the King's hands; and in the 20th year of King Henry II. he gave a fine of one hundred pounds to repossess them.⁷

¹ Mon. Angl. T. I. p. 646.
Angl. T. II. p. 230.
& Derb.

² Rot. Pip. 5^o. Steph.

⁵ Lib. Nig. Scacc. T. I. p. 271.

³ Thoroton, 299.

⁶ Rot. Pip. 18. H. II. Nott.

⁷ Ib. 20. H. II. Nott. & Derb.

This William de Heriz, for the health of his soul, and of the soul of Adeline his wife, (daughter and heir of Robert de Whatton) and for the soul of Robert de Heriz, his brother, gave Arnald, his man, of Widmerekpole, with his whole land, being four bovates, and all customs and services thereto belonging, and his mill at Widmerekpole, and wood out of his woods at Huccanal, to make and mend it forever; and half his mill at Gonoldeston, and the like power in his woods there, and divers other things, to God, and the church of Lenton, upon the great Altar, he and his wife there offering it in the presence of many witnesses; amongst whom were Robert de Heriz, William his uncle, and Robert the Sheriff.¹ In the 25th year of King Henry II. the Sheriff accounted for 78s. and 4d. being the farm of the lands of this William de Heriz,² he being then dead, and his lands probably in the custody of the King, by reason of the minority of his heir.

Beside his wife Adeline, he is said (by Dugdale in his Baronage, V. I. p. 684. who cites the authority of Robert Glover, Somerset-Herald) to have had another wife, Matilda, the daughter of Ralph Lord Bassett of Drayton, in Staffordshire. But this cannot be true: for in the 26th year of King Henry II. this William de Heriz being dead *without issue*, Robert his *brother and heir*, paid an hundred pounds for livery of his inheritance;³ and the William de Heriz who married Matilda Bassett *had issue*; which issue enjoyed, under an intail, part of the lands of the last Ralph Lord Bassett of Drayton.

¹ Thoroton's Notts. p. 39 and 40. "Reg. de Lenton, 109." Nott. & Derb.

² Rot. Pip. 25. H. II.

³ Rot. Pip. 26. H. II. Nott. & Derb.

Adeline,

Adeline, the wife of William de Heriz, survived him, and 26°. H. II. gave a fine to the King of one hundred marks, that she might not be compelled to marry any other person than such as she should chuse.¹

The gifts of William de Heriz to the church of Lenton, Robert his brother, grandson of the first Robert, confirmed; and gave the whole portion of corn, growing on his land at Widmerepole, to be “christianly buried” at Lenton.²

Robert the grandson, by deed without date, remised and quit claimed to God and the church of the Blessed Mary at Darley, and the canons there serving God, his right of advowson of the church of Winnefeld, with its appurtenances and liberties in pure and perpetual alms, for the health of his soul, and of the souls of his wife and his friends.³

To this Robert de Heriz, (Heric) John Earl of Moreton, before he came to the Crown, granted that he should have hunting, an huntsman, and all other liberties and free customs in his wood, and in his land of Winefeld, without vexation and without regard of the Earl’s foresters. And that he should have quiet carriage from the wood aforesaid, for gift and for sale, so that he enclosed the wood in such manner that the Earl’s beasts should not be able to enter.⁴

And

¹ Rot. Pip. 26. H. II. Nott. & Derb.

² Thoroton, ut sup.

³ Ex autog. penes Adam Wolley, jun. de Matlock. Com. Derb. gen.

⁴ Cart. 1°. Joannis, p. 2. m. 16. n. 102. “Rex concessit Ivoni de Heric fil. Rob’ti de Heric
“ & h’edib’z suis post eum imp’petuu’ q’d h’eant Venatum & Venatorem & om’es alias lib’tates
“ & lib’as consuetudines in bosco suo & in t’ra sua de WINEFELD sine vexac’one & sine regardo
“ forestarior’

And afterwards John, on his accession to the Crown, by his charter, dated at Worcester on the 11th of April, in the first year of his reign, granted to Ivo de Heric, son of Robert de Heric, and to his heirs for ever, the like liberties, expressly referring to the charter, which he (the King) had whilst Earl of Moreton granted to Robert de Heric, father of Ivo;¹ and for this grant or confirmation, Ivo de Heric gave to the King ten marks of silver, to be paid on demand; five marks at Easter, and five marks at Michaelmas.²

In the 16th of King John, Ivo de Heriz gave a fine to the King of 300l. for certain lands of Ralph Basset:³ and soon after, in the contest between the King and his Barons, he joined the latter in their struggle for liberty; for which the King seized his lands.⁴ But it was not long ere he gave to King John a fine of forty marks for the King's grace and benevolence:⁵ and, says Dugdale, *on the accession of King Henry the Third, and the restoration of the realm to quiet, his lands were restored.*⁶

Ralph Fitz-Simon and Mabilia his wife, in the 10th year of King Henry the Third, released to John de Heriz the third part of the manors of *Winesfeud*, *Tibeschelf*, *Gonoldeston*, and *Widmerepole*; which Ralph

“forestarior’ n’ror’ Et q’d quietum h’eant cariagium de bosco p’d’co de dato & vendito Ita tamen
“q’d ipse claudat nemus p’no’i’atum ne bestie n’re nemus illud ingredi possint. Has lib’tates con-
“cessimus ei & h’edib’z suis de nob’ & h’edib’z n’ris in feudo & hereditate, *sicut carta n’ra quam*
“*Rob’to de Heric p’ri ip’ius Iwonis fecimus dum essemus Comes Moreton r’onabilit’ testatur.* Dat. apud
“Wigorn. xj. die April. Anno r’ni n’ri primo.”

¹ Cart. ut sup.

² Oblata 1°. Joannis, m. 4.

³ Rot. Pip. 16°. Joannis, Nott. & Derb.

⁴ Baronage, V. I. p. 684. citing Clauf. 1. H. III. m. 18. This, however, is an erroneous reference.

⁵ Fin. 16. & 17. Joannis.

⁶ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 684.

claimed as the reasonable dower of Mabilia, out of the freehold of Ivo de Heriz, her former husband.¹

Ivo de Heriz was a benefactor to the canons of Felley in Nottinghamshire, as was also Robert his father; the charter of the latter (*viz.* Robert) being witnessed by Robert his son, Geoffrey de Heriz, &c. and the charter of the former (*viz.* Ivo) being for the health of the soul of his brother, William, and attested by William de Heriz of Wyverton, Simon the chaplain of Wynfeld, &c.; and John de Heriz, son of Ivo, was also a benefactor to the same canons.²

It seems, however, that Ivo de Heriz had a brother Hugh, (probably an elder brother) who by deed without date, confirmed to God and the canons of Darley, the right of advowson of the church of Winnefeld, which Robert de Heriz his father gave to them, with lands in Ulkerthorp, for the health of his soul, and of the souls of his father, mother, predecessors, and friends.³

And by another deed he granted to the same canons a bovaté of land in Winnefeld; *viz.* 10 acres in the Assart, which Gilbert Clerke held, and two acres adjoining thereto, westwards.⁴

And by another deed he granted and confirmed to God, and the before-mentioned canons of Darley, for the health of his soul, and of the souls of his ancestors, *with* the body of Hawise Briewer his wife, and for the health of her soul, and the souls of their successors, six acres of land in the territories of Winnefeld, in pure and perpetual alms.⁵

¹ Fin. in divers. Comit. 10. H. III. Derb. autog. penes A. Wolley, jun.

² Thoroton's Notts. p. 255.

³ ⁴ ⁵ Ex.

John de Heriz, (son of Ivo) in the reign of King John paid 60s. by the hands of William de Wiverton, for his fee in Wynefeld, on the collection of the aid to the King (by the scutage of two marks) towards the marriage of the King's sister to the Emperor (King) of the Romans.¹

This payment by William de Wiverton *for* John de Heriz is presumptive evidence that John de Heriz was then within age, and that Ivo his father was dead; so that the reference of Dugdale to Clauf. 1^o. H. III. m. 18. (before mentioned) is not merely erroneous as a reference, but the latter part of the statement supported by it is erroneous also.

King Henry the Third on the 1st of April, in the eleventh year of his reign, gave respite to John de Heriz, son of Ivo, for receiving the honour of Knighthood until Pentecost in that year: and the Sheriff of Nottinghamshire was commanded that he should not trouble him on account of his not receiving it at Easter.²

This John de Heriz held the manor of Wynnefeld, with Tybeshelf and Oxcroft, for two Knights fees of the honour of Peverell; for which he was only to perform suit of Court from three weeks to three weeks, at the Court of Peverell, in the county of Derby.³

By a deed without date, John de Heriz declared that the abbot and convent of Darley had, at his request, granted to him and his heirs to have divine service performed by a chaplain, at the expence of him and his heirs, in the chapel at Linbery, (said to be near a place in the parish of Winfield, now called Ufton Hall) saving the jurisdiction of the church of Winnefeld in confessions, obventions and profits thereto belonging, as

¹ Testa de Neville.

² Clauf. 11. H. III. m. 14.

³ Testa de Neville.

well from him and his heirs as from his family and household. And he further declared that he had engaged upon his corporal oath, that if any thing should be celebrated in the chapel of Linbery to the hurt of the jurisdiction of the mother church of Winnefeld, it should be seen unto: and that if he should retain a chaplain yearly with him, he would present that chaplain to the abbot of Darley, who should administer to the chaplain a corporal oath for the indemnity of the mother church: and that if the church should be in any wise injured by this chantry, it should be lawful for the abbot to interdict the chapel until satisfaction should be made by him and his heirs.¹

John de Heriz died before the 30th of Henry the Third, leaving Sarah his wife surviving;² who afterwards married Jollan de Neville,³ a justice itinerant, and a man of great note in his day; more especially eminent for having compiled the curious record before cited, called the *Testa de Neville*.

Henry de Heryz, son of John de Heryz, A. D. 1255, granted to Walter, abbot of Darley, and his successors, the land of Wistanton, (Wessington in Com. Derby) which he had of the gift and conveyance of Ralph Fitz-Ralph, or of his father, with the capital messuage of that town; to hold to the abbot and his successors for ever; rendering to Henry and his heirs, at every entry of the King into Wales, one war horse of the value of four shillings, one sack of the value of six-pence, and an halter of the value of an halfpenny; and, upon the renewal of every abbot of that abbey, twenty shillings of silver in the name of a relief.⁴

¹ Ex. autog. penes A. Wolley.

² ³ Rot. Pip. 30. H. III. Linc.

int. MSS. Harl. in Mus. Brit. N^o. 4937. fo. 129.

⁴ Peck's Monasticon



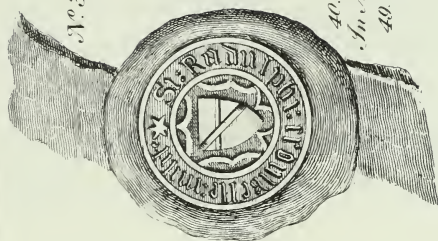
N^o 1.

An Dom.
M C C L V.
Pekin. Monast.
MS. Martini. 4037.
fol. 129.



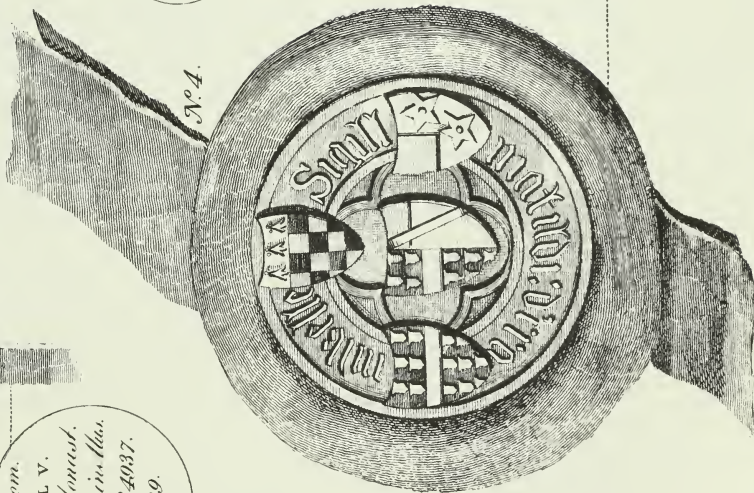
N^o 2.

A. D.
M C C L X V.
Pekin. Monast.
fol. 130.



N^o 3.

40. C. 3.
In. Mus Brit.
40. A. 43.



N^o 4.

A. Reg.
Edu. III. 40.
In. Mus Brit.
40. A. 43.

On the 18th of February, in the 1st year of King Edward the First, the King took the fealty of John de Heriz, brother and heir of Henry de Heriz, deceased, for all the lands and tenements Henry his brother held of the King in capite on the day he died. And the King rendered those lands to him, on condition that John, on the first coming of the King into England, should come to the King and do his homage for them: and the escheator had command to deliver seisin accordingly.¹

This John, son of John, son of Ivo de Heriz, released to the priory of Thurgarton the homages and services due to him for lands in Gonaldeston, which Ivo his grandfather granted to Philip, son of Odo, and Philip gave to the priory; and which lands John de Heriz, son of Ivo and father of John, had before confirmed.²

John de Heriz, the grandson of Ivo, died in or before the 27th year of King Edward the First: for by the inquisition taken at Wynnefeld on the 1st day of July, that year, it is found that he held of the King, in capite, of the honour of Peverell, the manor of Tippefchell, (Tibshelf) in the county of Derby, by the service of one Knight's fee. And that he held the manor of Suth Wynnefeld of Lawrence de Pavely, by the service of one Knight's fee. And that there was *there* a certain capital messuage insufficient for the sustentation of the family. That there were in demesne three bovates and an half, and three acres of land; worth together 11s. and 3d. That there was a certain park whereof the herbage was worth 10s. per ann. That there were there three free tenants; viz. Nicholas Cotys, who paid for his tenures 9s. Ralph Colier, 9s. and 2d. and Simon de Morewood, 12s. and 3d.: the whole rents of free tenants amounting to 30s. and 5d. That there were the following customary tenants;

¹ Fin. 1. E. I. m. 24.

² Thoroton, 299.

viz.

viz. Nicholas Attestonehende, (“*ad finem ville*”) who paid 6s. per annum; William Bateman, 16s. and 8d. Stephen, son of Godus, 13s. and 4d. Symon “Attestonehende,” 7s. and 6d. William Bercher, 6s. and 8d. and others for their several tenures: the whole rents of the customary tenants amounting to 11l. 10s. 8d. There were also eight cottagers, every one of whom held a toft and paid 2s. per annum; in the whole 16s.: so that the whole manor of Suth Wynnefeld was then of the annual value of 17l. 18s. 8d. The jurors further found that John, son of John de Heriz, was his next heir, and of the age of 21 years at the Feast of St. Gregory the Martyr, then last.¹

And on the 13th of July, in the 27th year of King Edward the First, the King took the homage of John, son and heir of John de Heriz deceased, for all the lands and tenements which John his father held of the King in capite as of the honour of Peverell, and thereupon rendered to him his lands, and gave command to the escheator to deliver seisin accordingly, saving to Matilda, the widow of John, her reasonable dower.²

The last John de Heriz, by fine in the 18th year of King Edward the Second, settled his manors of Wynefeld and Tybesshelf, and his manor of Gonaldeston in Nottinghamshire, on himself for life, with remainder to Roger Beler for life; remainder to Roger, son of Roger, and to Margaret, the elder, daughter of Richard de la Rivere, Knt. and the heirs of their bodies; remainder to Thomas, son of Roger Beler, and to Margaret, the younger, daughter of Richard de la Rivere, and the heirs of their bodies; remainder *to the right heirs of the said John de Heriz*.³

¹ Efc. 27. E. I. n. 36.
18. E. II.

² Fin. 27. E. I. m. 12.

³ Thoroton, p. 40. and 300.—Trin.

And by the inquisition taken at Chesterfield on Saturday the Feast of St. Katherine the Virgin, in the 3d year of King Edward the Third, the jurors found that the said John de Herice held in his demesne in fee, on the day of his death, in the county of Derby, 50s. annual rent in Braken-thwayt, issuing from the tenements of frank tenants, which rent he held of William D'Eyncourt, by the service of 10s. per annum. That he also held the manor of Tybesshelf of the King as of his honour of Peverell, then in the King's hands; and that he held, for term of his life, of the grant of *Thomas de la Forthe, clerk, and Robert de Couland, by fine between them levied, the manor of Wynefeld* of Lawrence Pavly, by the service of half a Knight's fee. And that after the decease of the said John de Herice, the manors of Tybesshelf and Wynefeld were to remain to Roger Beler (then deceased) for the term of his life; remainder to Roger, son of Roger Beler, and to Margaret, elder daughter of Richard de la Rivere, then living, and to the heirs of their bodies. And the jurors said that the sum total of the value of the manors of Tybesshelf and Wynefeld was 40l. 7s. 4d.; and that Matilda de Herice, next of blood (*consanguinea*) of the said John de Herice, whom Richard de la Rivere had taken to wife, was next heir of the said John de Herice, and of the age of 30 years and upwards.¹

There was an hospital at Brodbusk, in Gonaldeston parish, (which, I believe, is still in being) *founded* by some of the Heriz family, (according to Tanner, by *William de Heriz, in the time of Henry III.*²) and to which John, son of John de Heriz, was a benefactor.³ As to the foundation, however, there must be a mistake either in the date or the person; for William de Heriz, Lord of Gonaldeston, was dead in A°. 25. H. II.

¹ Efc. 3. E. III. n. 57.

² Tanner's Not. and Gough's Camden, V. II. p. 289.

³ Tanner.

By an inquisition taken at Alfreton on Monday next after the Feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, in the 18th year of King Edward the Third, it is found not to the damage of the King or any other, that the King should give licence to Alice Beler and Roger Beler, Knt. to grant the manor of Cruche to Roger, the son of Roger Beler, and to Margaret, the daughter of John Grey of Codnor, to hold to Roger, son of Roger, and to Margaret, and to the heirs of their bodies; remainder to the said Roger Beler and Alice, and to the right heirs of the said Roger Beler. And the jurors further found *that the said Alice and Roger had besides 20l. land and rent in Wynefeld and Tybshelfe, held of the King as of his honour of Peverell, by Knight's service.*¹

And by an inquisition taken at Derby on the 20th of December, in the 4th year of King Richard the Second, it is found that Roger Beler and Margaret his first wife,² daughter of Richard de la Rivere, Knt. held jointly the manors of Wynefeld and Tybshelf to them and the heirs between them lawfully begotten; and that the said Margaret his wife died sixteen years and upwards before the taking the inquisition: that about seven years before the taking the inquisition, the said Roger Beler gave up to Robert de Swylyngton, Knt. and to Margaret his wife, daughter of the said Roger, and to the heirs of their bodies, all right and claim to the manors of Wynefeld and Tybshelf; rendering for them and for the manors of Widmerepole and Gonaldeston, in Nottinghamshire, 200 marks

¹ Efc. 18. E. III. n. 64.

² She must have died between 3. E. III. and 18. E. III. and consequently thirty-six years at least before this inquisition was taken; for she was his wife, 3. E. III. and the inquisition respecting his settlement on a second wife, the daughter of Grey of Codnor, is in Efc. 18. E. III. n. 64.

per annum to Roger for his life : and that the manors of Tybschelf and Wynefeld were of the annual value of 67l. ; viz. Wynefeld 33l. 13s. 4d. and Tybschelf 33l. 6s. 8d. ; and that the latter *was held of John Pavely, Knt.* by the moiety of one Knight's fee. That the said Roger Beler died the 8th of October, then last, leaving Margaret, the wife of Robert de Swylyngton, Knt. daughter of the said Roger, (by his first wife, Margaret, elder daughter of Richard de la Rivere, Knt.) and Thomafine, the daughter of the said Roger, (by Katherine his third wife) his next heirs : Margaret aged 30 years and upwards, and Thomafine aged 7 years at the Feast of St. George, then last. It is also found that he held the manor of Crich, and that the abbot of Darley held of him two Knights fees ; Nicholas de Longford, Knt. one Knight's fee ; William de Chaworth, one Knight's fee ; Thomas de Reresby, Knt. and the heir of Roger de Reresby, one Knight's fee ; John de Annesley, Knt. two Knights fees ; William Dethek, and the heir of William de Wakebrigge, half a Knight's fee ; and the heirs of Thomas de Birchover, half a Knight's fee.¹

The family of Bellers or (as it is frequently written in records) Beler was of good antiquity in Leicestershire, deriving it's descent from the same stock with the noble house of Moubay.² Roger Bellers, of Kirkby Bellers in Leicestershire, the first of the name who appears to have had an interest in Winfield, was a descendant (I presume of a younger branch) of the family of Bellers of Kettleby upon Eye in that county, and began to erect a chantry at Kirkby in the 9th year of King Edward II.³ and in the 13th year of Edward II. endowed it for a custos and twelve chaplains to

¹ Efc. 4. R. II. n. 14.

² MS. Harl. N°. 1178, and N°. 1067.

³ Tanner's Notitia by Nafmith, & Mon. Ang. T. II. p. 344.

perform divine service for the health of his soul, and of the souls of Alice his wife, William Beler his father, Amicia his mother, Roger Beler his grandfather, Amicia his grandmother, Ralph Beler of Kettleby, &c.¹ He was killed in a valley near Reresby in Leicestershire, by Eustace de Folville and others, on the 4th of the calends of February, 1326.²

Alice, the widow of this Roger, and Roger Bellers their son, in 1359 appropriated the chantry of Kirkby to the use of canons regular of the order of St. Augustine; of which order it continued a priory till the dissolution of monasteries.³

Roger, the son, appears to have been a person of considerable consequence in Derbyshire, having served the office of Sheriff for the counties of Derby and Nottingham in the 35th, 36th, 43d, 44th, 45th, 46th, and 47th years of King Edward the Third;⁴ an office which was not in those days entrusted to persons of low esteem or narrow fortune.

This Roger Bellers had four wives. First, Margaret, eldest daughter of Richard de la Rivere, Knt. by whom he had a daughter Margaret, who (beside the manors of Winfield, Tibshelf, Widmerpole, and Gonaldeston, which were of her mother's inheritance, and were given up to her in her father's life-time) had on the partition of her father's lands, the manor of Boney in Nottinghamshire, and divers messuages and lands in Thorpe-Secheville, and Kyrkeby upon Wreke in Leicestershire.⁵ He secondly married Margaret, the daughter of John Lord Grey of Codnor, who died

¹ Tanner's Notitia by Nasmith, & Mon. Ang. T. II. p. 344. ² Mon. Ang. T. II. p. 346.
and Burton's Leicestersh. Tit. Kirkby Bellere. ³ Tanner's Not.—Mon. Ang. T. II. p. 346. &
Burton ut sup. ⁴ Fuller's Worthies Derbysh. ⁵ Efc. 4. R. II. n. 14.

without issue: thirdly, Katherine, by whom he had a daughter Thomasine, who had the manors of Kyrkeby upon Wreke, and Somerby, in the county of Leicester; and lands in Boney in Nottinghamshire, on the partition of her father's inheritance.¹ His fourth wife was named Mary: she survived him, and had the manor of Criche in Derbyshire, and the hundred of Framland, and lands and rents in Grymston, Estwell, Gouteby, (Godeby) Scaldford, and Thurfington in Leicestershire, &c. for her dowry: and died seized of the manor of Criche on the 4th of March, in the 15th year of King Richard the Second; having, after the death of Roger Bellers, married John Seynt Clere, Knt.²

The heir general of Bellers, of the blood of Heriz, married into the family of Swyllington, and carried with her a great inheritance, as appears by what hath already been related. The latter family had it's seat at and derived it's name from the manor of Swyllington, near Pontefract Castle, in Yorkshire,³ and was of so high estimation, that Adam de Swyllington, one of the family, had summons to Parliament amongst the Barons of the realm, in the 20th year of King Edward the Second, and the 1st and 2d years of King Edward the Third.⁴ This family is said to have possessed lands to the amount of 2000 marks yearly, long before the time of King Henry the Eighth.⁵

By an inquisition taken at Derby on Tuesday next after the Feast of St. Bartholomew, in the 15th year of King Richard the Second, it is found that Robert de Swyllington, Knt. died the 11th of July, then last, and that Robert (Roger it should be) de Swyllington was his son and next heir, and

¹ Efc. 4. R. II. n. 14.
fo. 19.

² Ib. 15. R. II. p. 1. n. 5.
⁴ Prynne's Reg. of Parl. Writs, part 1. p. 323.

³ Leland's Itin. Vol. IV. pt. 1.
⁵ Leland ut sup.

then of the age of 21 years. He was seised at the time of his death, in right of Margaret his wife, of the manor of Wynefeld, with its appurtenances; and there were there a capital messuage, with an hall, many chambers, a dovecote, and other buildings, (domib'z) worth nothing by the year beyond reprises; a carucate of land, fallow, (frishe) with meadows and pastures, worth 33s. per annum; a park worth 40s. per annum; rents of free men, natives, and cottagers, to the amount of 14l. 17s. 1d. per annum; a close called Ufton Wood, the herbage whereof was worth 3s. 4d.; and two water mills, worth 20s. per annum, beyond reprises. And it was found that the manor was held of John Pavley, but by what service the jurors were ignorant. He also held the manor of Typshelfe in right of his wife, and had the castle of Horston in Derbyshire, by the grant of the King for the term of his life.¹

He at the same time also held, in right of his wife, the manors of Boney, Widmerepole, and Gonaldeston, and the advowsons of the churches of Widmerepole and Gonaldeston, and the chapel of Brodbusk in Nottinghamshire. He had also, in right of his wife, the manors of Kyrkeby upon Wreke, and Somerby, in Leicestershire; and, in his own right, a moiety of the manor of Newhall, and of the advowson of the church of Thurleston, and divers lands in that county; the manor of Prinowe, and divers lands in Northamptonshire; the manors of Wyfete, Westleton, Westhall, Yoxford, and Thursyngton, and divers lands in Suffolk; and the manors of Shelf', Swyllington, Fairburne, Bradford, and Almondbury, and divers lands in Yorkshire; beside the hundred of Stafford, and the manor of Burgwaleys in that county, which he held for the term of

¹ Esc. 15. R. II. n. 61. pars 1.

his life.¹ Margaret, the wife of this Robert de Swylyngton, survived him; and afterwards married to John de Eylesford or Eynesford, Knt.²

By an inquisition taken at Derby on the 6th day of September, in the 5th year of King Henry the Fifth, it is found, that in the octaves of St. Michael, in the 9th year of King Richard the Second, a fine was levied between Ralph de Forthyngton, clerk, and William Caudray, plaintiffs, and Robert de Swylyngton, Knt. and Margaret his wife, deforcients of the manors of Wynefeld and Tibeshelf in Derbyshire, and estates in Nottinghamshire; which were thereby settled on *Robert de Swylyngton and Margaret his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to the right heirs of Margaret*. That Robert and Margaret had issue Roger de Swillington, Knt. That Robert died; and Margaret his widow afterwards married John de Eylesford, Knt. then deceased: which John and Margaret his wife, by their charter, dated in the Morrow of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, 20. R. II. granted the manors of Criche, Wynfeld, and Tibeshelf, to Roger de Swylyngton and his heirs, reserving yearly during the life of Margaret, 110 marks. That the manor of Wynfeld was held of the heirs of John Pawley, but by what service the jurors were ignorant. And that Roger de Swylyngton died the 6th of August, then last; leaving John his son and heir, aged 25 years and upwards.³

By an inquisition taken at Chesterfield on St. Bartholomew's-day, in the 6th year of King Henry the Fifth, it is found that John Swylyngton, Knt. was seised at his death of the manors of Cruche, Wynfeld, and Tybbeshelf, in Derbyshire; and of the manors of Wydmerepole and Gonaldeston, in Nottinghamshire; and the advowsons of the churches of

¹ Esc. 15. R. II. n. 61. pars 1.

² Ib. 15. R. II. p. 1. n. 5.

³ Ib. 5. H. V. n. 46.

Widmerepole, Gonaldeston, and Stanton on the Wolds. That he also held the manor and advowson of the church of Stanford on Sore, whereof he was jointly enfeoffed with Johanna his wife, by the name of John, son and heir of Roger Swylllyngton, Knt. and Johanna his wife, by William de Leke and others: that the said John Swylllyngton, Knt. died the 2d of April, then last; leaving Margaret, the wife of John Gra, Knt. his sister and heir, of the age of 30 years and upwards: and that the manor of Wynfeld was value per ann. beyond reprises, 7l. 9s. 11d.¹

By an inquisition taken at Derby 25th October, 8th Henry VIth, the jurors find the fine levied in the 9th year of King *Richard the Second*, whereby the manors of Wynfeld and Tybesshelf were settled on Robert de Swylllyngton and Margaret his wife, and the heirs of their bodies; with remainder to the right heirs of Margaret. That Robert died; Margaret surviving, who was since dead; after which the premises descended to Robert de Swylllyngton, son of Roger, as grandson (*consang.*) and heir of Robert de Swylllyngton, Knt. and Margaret; viz. son of Roger, son of Robert and Margaret. That Robert the grandson was seised, and died seised of the premises; after which they descended to Margaret, the wife of John Gra, Knt. as sister and heir of Robert the grandson. That Margaret Gra was seised, and died seised, in fee tail without issue; after which the premises had remained, did remain, *and ought to remain to Ralph Cromwell, Knt. Lord Cromwell of Tateshale, as cousin and heir of Margaret, wife of Robert de Swylllyngton, Knt.* viz. as being son of Ralph, son of Ralph, son of Avicia, sister of Roger [Bellers], father of Margaret, the wife of Robert de Swylllyngton, Knt. *because there was no issue remaining of Robert and Margaret.*²

¹ Efc. 6. H. V. n. 24.

² Ib. 8. H. VI. n. 40.

But notwithstanding the finding of the jury in the inquisition I have last stated, “*that this estate ought to remain to Ralph Lord Cromwell,*” it does not appear that he had the quiet enjoyment of it till some time afterwards: for in, or about the 19th year of King Henry the Sixth,¹ there was a great suit between the Lord Cromwell and Henry Pierpont, Knt. for the manors of Winfield and Tibshelf, in this county, and the manors of Gonaldeston and Widmerepole, in Nottinghamshire; the Lord Cromwell claiming as heir of Margaret Gra, of the inheritance of Bellers, and Sir Henry Pierpont claiming as heir of the inheritance of Margaret Gra, descended from the family of Heriz: the event of which suit appears to have been a compromise, by which the manors of Gonaldeston, Widmerepole, and Tibshelf, were vested in the family of Pierpont; and this manor of Winfield was assured to the Lord Cromwell.

It must, however, be here observed, that upon the evidences stated, *every thing* given to the Lord Cromwell upon this compromise, was *so much more than his right*; because, as the fine levied in the 9th year of King Richard the Second was incapable of affecting the issue of Thomas Bellers and Margaret his wife, to whom a remainder in tail in the premises was limited by the fine of the 18th year of King Edward the Second, it could only operate to create a base fee, determinable on the failure of issue of the bodies of Robert de Swyllington and Margaret his wife, if, at the time it was levied, Thomas Bellers and Margaret his wife, or their issue were in being. But if, at the time of levying the last mentioned fine, Thomas Bellers and Margaret his wife were dead, and had no surviving issue, then *that* fine, being competent to extinguish the estate tail vested in

¹ Irrot, in Banc. Hil. 19. H. VI. rot. 321. & r. 137.

Margaret, the wife of Robert de Swyllington, as heir of the body of Roger Bellers and Margaret his wife, the last mentioned estate tail was thereby merged in the reversion and inheritance in fee simple limited to the right heirs of John de Heriz by the fine of 18. E. II.; and Henry Pierpont, Knt. being, in the 8th year of King Henry the Sixth, by the failure of issue of the other branches of the Heriz family, become the heir at law of John de Heriz, ought to have succeeded.¹

The family of Cromwell was of great antiquity in Nottinghamshire, and derived it's name from the Lordship of Cromwell in that county; whereof Alden, ancestor of Ralph Lord Cromwell, was owner at the time of the Conquest.² And that it was of long standing in Derbyshire, is evident from the grant of King Henry the Third to Ralph de Crumbwell, of free warren in all his demesne lands at Crumbwell, Com. Nott. and Halumer (West Hallam) in Com. Derby.³

The connection of the Cromwells with the manor of Winfield originated in the marriage of Ralph de Crumbwell, Knt. with Avicia, the sister of Roger Bellers.

Ralph Cromwell, Knt. son and heir of Ralph and Avicia, married Matilda, the daughter of John Bernake, sister and heir to her brother William, who died in his minority; which John Bernake was son and heir of William Bernake, Knt. and of Alice his wife, sister and heir of John de Driby, who was cousin and heir of Robert de Tatehale, a Lord of Parliament in the time of King Edward the First;⁴ and by this marriage

¹ Vide the case of Martin ex dem. Tregonnel v. Stracham in B. R. Hil. 16. G. II. ² Thoroton, p. 353. and 354. ³ Cart. 41. H. III. m. 3. ⁴ Plac. de Banco. 38. E. III. rot. 396. Linc.

the Cromwells became possessed of the manor of Tateshale in Lincolnshire, which was afterwards designed the seat of their Barony.

Ralph Lord Cromwell (grandson of Ralph Lord Cromwell and Matilda Bernake) succeeded Margaret, the wife of John Gra, in the manor of Winfield, as hath before been observed.

To this Ralph Lord Cromwell, King Henry the Sixth, on the 11th day of August, in the 11th year of his reign, granted the office of Treasurer of the Exchequer; to hold, with all things appertaining to the office, during the King's pleasure:¹ and in the 14th year of King Henry the Sixth, he was retained to serve the King, in the relief of Calais, with one Knight, twelve men at arms, and one hundred and seventy-five archers.² On the 3d of October, in the same year, the King granted to him, by the name of Ralph Lord of Cromwell, Treasurer of England, the office of Master of his Hounds and Falcons; to hold to him, with the wages, fees, and other commodities whatever, as entirely, and in the same manner, as the King's most dear uncle, John Duke of Bedford, or Edmund, then late Duke of York, deceased, in his life-time had the office.³ And on the 22d of September, in the same year, the King granted to him, for his services, 40l. during the royal pleasure, to be yearly received out of the issues of the manor of Whafshyngburgh in Lincolnshire, then in the King's hands by the death of the Duke of Bedford.⁴

On the 14th of July, in the 17th year of King Henry the Sixth, the King, at the request of this Ralph Lord Cromwell, granted to him and to the King's uncle, Henry bishop of Winchester and others, patrons of the

¹ Pat. 11. H. VI. p. 2. m. 13.

² Dug. Bar. Vol. II. p. 45.

³ Pat. 14^o. H. VI. p. 1.

m. 23. ⁴ Ib. 14^o. H. VI. p. 1. m. 12.

parish church of Tateshale, and to their heirs and assigns, licence to make the church of Tateshale collegiate, in honour of the Trinity, the Virgin Mary, St. Peter the Apostle, St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, for seven chaplains, six secular clerks, and six choiristers; (of which chaplains one was to be master or keeper) and also to erect an alms-house at the side of the church-yard of the church of Tateshale, for thirteen poor people of both sexes, daily to perform divine service for the good estate of the King, and of Ralph Lord Cromwell, whilst living, and for their souls when dead. And also for the souls of the parents, and of all the friends and benefactors of Ralph. And more especially for the soul of Lady Matilda Cromwell, late Lady of Tateshale, his grandmother.¹

On the 1st of February, in the 23d year of King Henry VI. the King granted to Ralph Lord Cromwell, Knt. and his heirs, for the services he had performed to the King, the office of Constable of the King's castle of Nottingham, and of Steward and Keeper of his forest of Shirewode, of his parks of Beschewode and Clypston, and of his woods of Billowe Birke-lande, Rumwode, Oufelande, and Fulwode in Nottinghamshire.²

On Christmas-day, A. D. 1449, (28. H. VI.) about four o'clock in the afternoon, the Lord de Cromwell, being with the Queen's favourite, William de la Pole Duke of Suffolk, and many other Lords in the Star Chamber at Westminster, in the King's Council, William Taylboys, and divers of his servants, secretly armed, assembled about the gates of Westminster Hall, with the intention, as the Lord Cromwell asserted, to murder him: but, if such were their intention, it seems they did not succeed; and Taylboys denied the charge, and was favoured in his excuses by the Duke.

¹ Pat. 17. H. VI. p. 2. m. 19.

² Ib. 23. H. VI. p. 1. m. 10.

The King's Council, however, committed Taylboys to the Tower, and the Lord Cromwell immediately resigned his places, probably in disgust, and, during the Parliament held at Westminster in January following, recovered against Taylboys, in the Exchequer, by a verdict of 12 jurors of Middlesex, 3000*l.* for this insult: and thereupon Taylboys, notwithstanding the Duke's influence was exerted in his favour, was committed to the custody of the Sheriff of London. And in the same Parliament, the Duke of Suffolk, whose abuse of his influence with the Queen raised general murmurs throughout the kingdom, was, by the interest of the Lord Cromwell, accused of High Treason, and, after a short confinement, condemned to five years exile from all places within the King's allegiance. The night after the Duke was liberated from his confinement he set out from Westminster, on his exile, and, in Suffolk, having received the Sacrament before divers Knights and gentlemen of that county, he swore to clear himself of the treasons he was charged with. He then put to sea, with three ships from Ipswich, directing his course towards Flanders; and, the day following, by a sailer called Nicholas of the Tower, and others there lying in wait for him, he was taken, and, on the 2d of May, he was beheaded at sea, before Dover, by the sailors. And, in the month of July following, the Lord Cromwell was appointed the King's Chamberlain.¹

This Lord Cromwell had summons to Parliament, amongst the Barons of the realm, from the 4th year of King Henry the Fifth, to the 33d year of King Henry the Sixth;² but how much earlier, I am not able to ascertain with certainty. Dugdale must, however, I presume, be mistaken in stating him to be summoned to Parliament in the 1st year of King

¹ *Wilhelmi Wyrcester annales rerum Anglicarum.*
pa. 278.

² *Prynne's Reg. of Parl. Writs*, p. 1.

Henry the Fourth: for, if we may credit an inquisition taken after the death of his grandmother, in the 7th year of King Henry the Fifth, he was then *twenty-six* years of age;¹ and of course could not be more than six or seven years old in the 1st year of King Henry the Fourth: and I therefore conclude the summons in the 1st of Henry the Fourth, and many subsequent calls to Parliament, stated by Dugdale to be directed to this Lord, were directed to his father; but without ascertaining the time of his father's death; the first proof of which, that I have met with, is in A°. 5°. Hen. V.² the precise number cannot be determined.

By his testament, dated in A°. 33. H. VI.³ Ralph, the grandson, bequeathed his body to be buried in the middle of the quire of his collegiate church of Tateshale, until the whole fabrick should be new built, and then to be removed into the midst of the quire: and appointed, that after his decease, 3000 masses should be said for his soul, in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham, and Derby; viz. 1000 of the Trinity, 1000 of the Virgin Mary, and 1000 of Requiem. And having constituted William, bishop of Winchester, John Fortescue, Knt. chief justice of the King's Bench, and John Portington, a justice of the Common Pleas, his executors, died the 4th of January, 1455, (34. H. VI.) without issue, and was buried in the quire of Tateshale, with this inscription on his tomb:

*Hic jacet nobilis Baro Radulphus Cromwell, miles, Dominus de Cromwell, quondam The-
saurarius Angliæ & fundator hujus Collegij, cum inclita consorte suâ Margaretâ, filiâ
& una hæredum Domini D'Eyncourt. Qui quidem Radulphus obiit quarto die mensis
Januarij A. Dom. MCCCCLV. Et prædicta Margareta 15 die mensis Septembris
Anno Dom. MCCCCLIII. Quorum animabus propitiatur Deus, Amen.*⁴

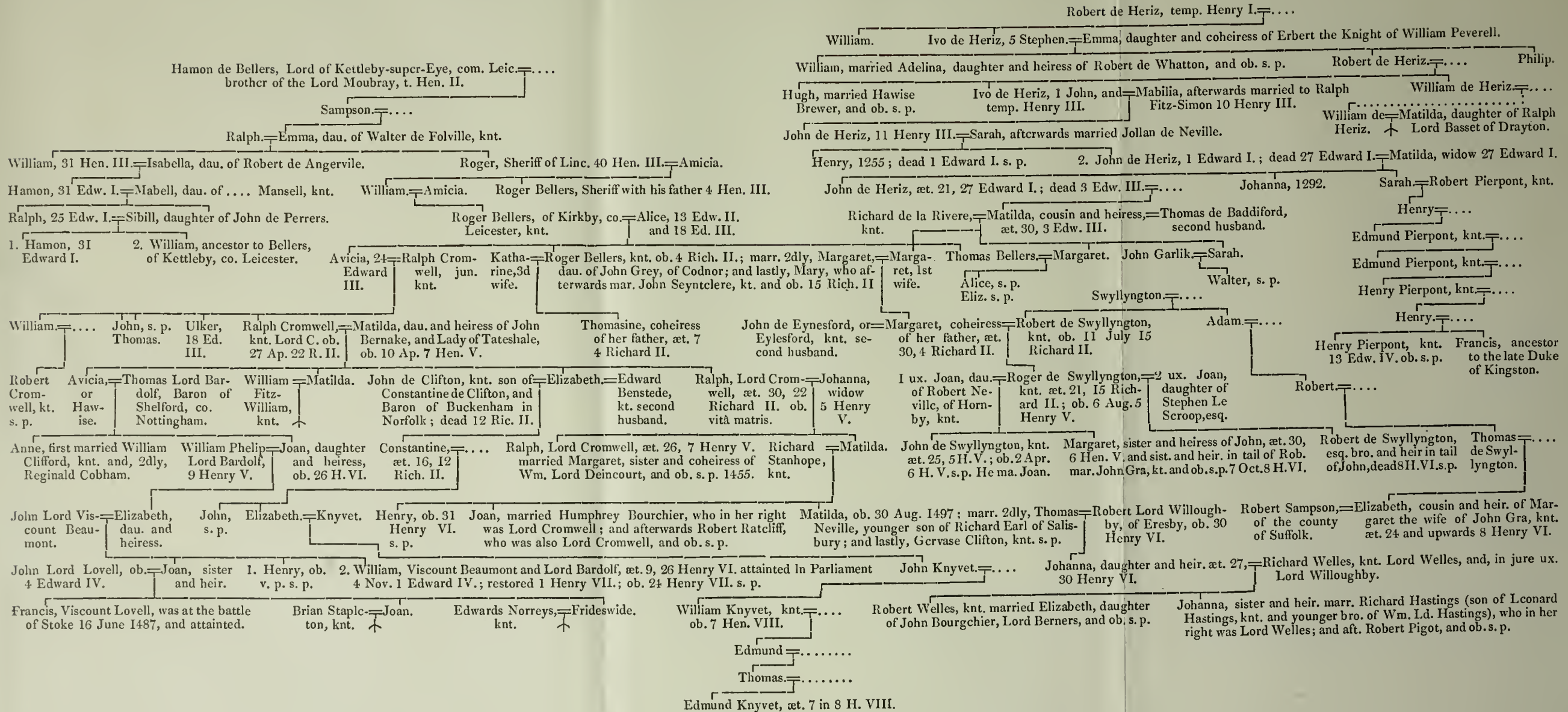
¹ Efc. 7°. Hen. V. N°. 72. Derb.
V. II. p. 45.

² Cart. orig. in Mus. Brit. 49. A. 44.

³ Dug. Bar.

⁴ Ib. p. 46.

GENEALOGY OF THE LORDS OF THE MANOR OF SOUTH WINFIELD.



For the descent of the Barony of Cromwell, after the decease of this Lord Cromwell without issue, as also for the particulars of the descent of the families of Heriz, de la Rivere, Bellers, Swyllington, Cromwell, and Pierpont, as far as they were respectively interested in the manor of Winfield, I refer the reader to the genealogical table annexed: but there is a story of Francis Viscount Lovell, a descendant of the Cromwell family, which though it hath been before printed, and though he could not have succeeded to this manor, because Ralph Lord Cromwell sold it away, may yet, as the Lord Lovell had a co-claim to the Barony of Cromwell, without impertinence be again related in this place.

The Viscount Lovell was with the Earl of Lincoln at the battle of Stoke, near Newark upon Trent, on the 16th of June, 1487, fighting in the behalf of Lambert Simnel against King Henry the Seventh; and some of our historians report that the Earl of Lincoln, the Lord Lovell, and others of their party, were, after the battle, found dead¹ in the field, in the places they had occupied during the action; and that they had defended their stations valiantly, neither turning from their adversaries nor yielding their ground.² Of the Lord Lovell, however, it is reported by others that he endeavoured to escape by flight from the battle, and swam across the river Trent on horseback; but that being unable to ascend the opposite bank, by reason of the steepness of its acclivity, he was drowned in the river.³ And a third report says he was not drowned, but having

¹ Stowe's Chron. edit. 1. p. 791. Thoroton, p. 279. Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 560. Howe's Chron. p. 472. Holinshed, V. II. p. 1431. Baker, p. 255, and 256. Speed, p. 948. Bacon, vide inf.

² Holinshed, V. II. p. 1431. Baker, p. 255, and 256. Speed, p. 948. Bacon, vide inf.

³ Holinshed, V. II. p. 1431. Baker, p. 255, and 256. Bacon, vide inf.

effected his escape, he long time afterwards led his life in a subterraneous cavern,¹ where at last he was starved to death, through the treachery or the negligence of the person to whom he had entrusted the secret of his retirement, and on whose assistance he depended. The latter report was some years ago strongly authenticated: for on pulling down the house at Minster Lovell, in Oxfordshire, formerly the residence of this Lord, in a vault was discovered the body of a man, richly appareled, seated in a chair, with a table and a mass book before him. The body was apparently entire when the workmen opened the vault, but from the admission of air it soon mouldered away: and there is every reason to believe this was the body of the Lord Lovell, who confiding himself to the care of a servant, was suffered to perish, either through treachery or fear, or by some accident which had disabled that servant from performing the office he had undertaken.² This Nobleman had tasted in an exquisite degree the uncertainty of human enjoyments. He had been taught by severe experience, that

“ The tide of business, like the running stream,
 “ Is sometimes high, and sometimes low,
 “ A” languid “ebb, or a tempestuous flow,
 “ *And always in extreme.*”

DRYDEN.

¹ “ Universos autem duces in acie cecidisse: nempe, comitem Lincolnæ, comitem Kildariæ,
 “ Franciscum dominum Lovellum, Martinum Swartum, et Thomam Broughtonum, omnes fortiter
 “ præliantes, nec terga vertentes, aut retro cedentes. Tantum de Lovello exiit fermo quod e prælio
 “ fugerit, et flumen Trenti equo transnataverit, sed adversum littus propter ripæ præcipitium
 “ conscendere non potuit, unde in fluvio submersus est. At alius fermo eum in fluvio non relinquit;
 “ sed refert, quod diu post in caveina quadam subterranea vitam produxerit.”

Historia Regni Regis Henrici Septimi.

Bacon's Works, printed by Millar 1753, Vol. III. p. 549.

² Hist. of the House of Ivery, V. I. p. 289.

In the time of Richard the Third the fun beams of royal favour reposed unclouded on his fortune; and wealth and honours followed in his train, to encourage the ardour of his ambition. A few years passed, and Richard paid with his life the forfeit of his cruelties. Lovell fought with his master at Bosworth, and then saved himself by flight: but after having for some time wandered about, and encountered the storms of adversity, he made a desperate effort to re-establish himself in the possession of his fortune, by espousing the cause of Lambert Simnel; and, in that pursuit, his fate was consummated, and has left a dreadful lesson to those who flatter themselves in the security of prosperity.

“ ————— Valet ima summis

“ Mutare, et insignia attenuat Deus,

“ Obscura promens: hinc apicem rapax

“ Fortuna cum fridore acuto

“ Suftulit, hinc posuisse gaudet.”

HOR. Lib. I. Car. xxxiv.

The last Ralph Lord Cromwell, in the time of Henry VI. sold the reversion, after his death, in the manor of Winfield, to John Talbot, second Earl of Shrewsbury; as partly appears evident from two inquiries; the one taken after the Earl's death,¹ and the other after the death of his son;² by which it is found, that being seised in fee of the manors of Bamford, Eyam, Middleton, Bafslow, Bubbenhill, Folowe, and Brassington, in Derbyshire, he, by his charter, dated 27 March, 36. Hen. VI. had thereof enfeoffed James Earl of Wiltshire, Nicholas Wortley, John Wombwell, Robert Barley, Thomas Everingham, and Robert Eyre, Esquires, *to the intent that the feoffees should pay all debts*

¹ Efc. 38. & 39, H. VI. n. 58. Derb.

² Ib. 13. E. IV. n. 52. Derb.

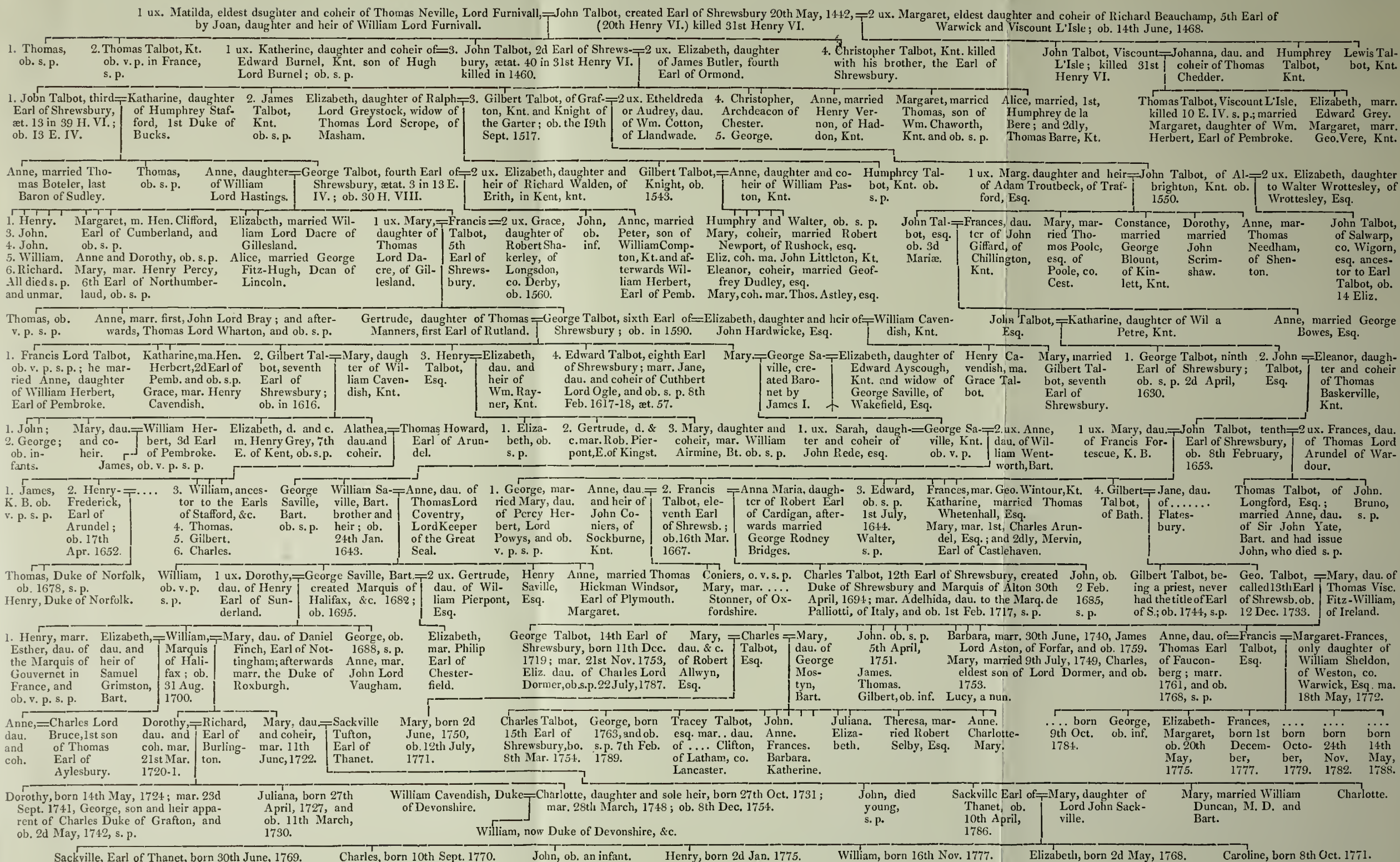
which

which he owed to Ralph Cromwell for the purchase of the manor of Wynefelde: and that he had it in the time of Henry VI. and not till after the death of Ralph Lord Cromwell, is evident from the *first accounts*¹ of the Earl's auditor or receiver, overseers and bailiff, for the lordships of Winfield and Crich, commencing Michaelmas, A°. 36. H. VI. which was two years, at least, after the death of Ralph Lord Cromwell.

John, second Earl of Shrewsbury of the family of Talbot, (who was the purchaser of this manor of Winfield) on Whit-Sunday, the 4th year of Henry VI. received the honour of Knighthood at Leicester, on the feast held there upon the reconciliation of Cardinal Beaufort and the Duke of Gloucester:² and in 20. H. VI. he attended his father in the wars of France;³ being the year in which his father (whose valour and wisdom were the stay of the English authority in that country) was created Earl of Shrewsbury. And in 24. Hen. VI. (when his father was created Earl of Waterford) he was appointed Chancellor of Ireland;⁴ and holding that office in A. D. 1451, complaint was made against him that "*absque Regis Licentia*" he employed a deputy.⁵ In the month of July, 31°. H. VI. his father attempting to relieve Chaftillon, then besieged by the French, terminated a life of military glory; being killed, with his son, the Lord Lisle;⁶ whereupon this John, his eldest son, (then 40 years of age,) succeeded him in his Earldom of Shrewsbury and other hereditary honours, and was the second Earl of Shrewsbury of his house: and in 32. H. VI. he had a livery of the lands of his inheritance, and had

¹ The originals of these accounts, on rolls of parchment, are in the possession of Mr. A. Wolley, who has indulged me with the use of them: and, as they contain some curious Items, I shall give the substance of them at the conclusion of this Work.

² Holinshed, V. II. p. 1234. ³ Rot. Franc. 20. H. VI. m. 24. ⁴ Pat. 24. H. VI. p. 2. m. 9. ⁵ Cox's Hist. of Ireland, p. 163. ⁶ Holinshed, p. 1285.



respite of his homage.¹ In 35. Hen. VI. he was appointed Lord Treasurer of England.² On the 4th of May, 35. Hen. VI. (1457) he was installed a Knight of the Garter.³ On the 24th of February, 37. H. VI. (1458) he was constituted justice of Chester:⁴ and on the 19th of December, 38. Hen. VI. in consideration of the charge he had been at in the King's service, he obtained a grant of an hundred marks per annum during his life, out of the revenues of the lordship of Wakefield, in Yorkshire, forfeited by the attainder of Richard Duke of York.⁵ And on the 10th of July following, this Earl,⁶ and Christopher his brother, no ways degenerating from their noble ancestors, but fighting valiantly for King Henry VI. against the Yorkists, at Northampton, were both of them slain:⁷ after which, the Earl's body was carried to Workfop, and deposited in Our Lady's Chapel in the priory.⁸

And by the inquisition taken at Bolsover,⁹ on the 31st of October, 39. H. VI. it is found, that besides the manors whereof he had enfeoffed

¹ Rot. fin. 32. H. VI. m. 3. ² Pat. 35. H. VI. p. 1. m.⁴ 16. ³ ⁴ Lodge's Peerage of Ireland, V. I. p. 341. ⁵ Pat. 38. H. VI. p. 1. m. 16. ⁶ Holinshed, 1299. ⁷ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 331.

⁸ With this Epitaph—"Sepulchrum magnanimi, atque præpotentis domini, domini Johannis de Talbot Comitis Salopiæ secundi, ex Regio sanguine ducentis originem. Qui Henrico Regi fidissimus, Bello apud Northamptoniam gesto, ante signa strenuè pugnans, honestâ morte occidit die decimo Julij anno domini nostri Jhesu Christi MCCCCLX. Cujus animæ propitiatur Deus. Amen."

"Salopiæ Comitis Lapis hic tegit ossa Johannis

"Cui nihil antiquius quàm fuit alma fides

"Hic ut serviret Regi, tormenta subivit

"Intrepidus ferri sanguineamque necem.

"Ergo licet parvum condât sua Viscera saxum,

"Virtus Angligenum lustrat in omne solum."

Dug. Bar. ut sup.

⁹ Efc. 38. & 39. H. VI. n. 58. Derb.

his feoffees as before stated, he held the manors of Monyash, Chelmerdon, and Berd; and lands in Shatton, Whitfield, Shallcrofs, Ferniley, Bowden, and Fairfield; and a rood of land at Buxton,¹ by Hallywall; all in Derbyshire: and died the 11th of July, then last, leaving John Earl of Shrewsbury, his son and heir, 13 years of age and upwards, when the inquisition was taken.

His eldest son and successor, John Talbot, third Earl of Shrewsbury, was born, according to Lodge,² the 17th of October, 1448; but, if the inquisition just stated be correct, at least a year before; and, so early were the youth of those days trained to the profession of arms, that, when scarcely 14 years of age, he attended Queen Margaret to the second battle of St. Alban's,³ fought Feb. 17, 1460; immediately after which, Prince Edward, son of Henry VI. conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood.⁴ He seems, however, not to have been included in the number of those who, on the accession of Edward the Fourth to the Crown, were attainted for their adherence to King Henry the Sixth:⁵ and in the 4th of Edw. IV. he had livery of his father's lands, though he was not then of full age.⁶ On the 25th of October, 1470, (10. E. IV.) he was with the Earl of Warwick when King Henry the Sixth was brought from the Tower, and, by a momentary sport of fortune, restored to authority:⁷ but it is doubtful whether he was led by attachment to Henry, or by fear of the Earl of Warwick; though I think the latter more probable, because in 11. Ed. IV. when Edward had regained the peaceable possession of the kingly office,

¹ The rood of land at Buxton, by Hallywall, is the scite of the hall, and bath, at Buxton; and the Hallywall is the Holy-well, or St. Anne's well. T. B.

² Peerage of Ireland, V. I. p. 341.
p. 1. m. 6.

³ Wil. Wyr.

⁴ 5 Ib.

⁶ Pat. 4. E. IV.

⁷ Holinshed, p. 1325.

the Earl of Shrewsbury was made Chief Justice of North Wales,¹ with commission² to array and arm all persons, of ability, in the counties of Salop and Stafford, and in the marches of North Wales, for relieving that country from the danger of the tumultuous assemblies then frequent in those parts. In 12. Edw. IV. he was constituted one of the King's Commissioners³ to treat with the Commissioners of James the Third of Scotland respecting the differences between the English and the Scots; and died on Saturday next after the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist, 13. Ed. IV.⁴ being then seised of the manors of Monyash and Chelmerdon, and lands in Ferniley, Bowden, and Whitwell; and entitled in reversion, after the death of Gilbert Talbot, to the manor of Stretton; all in Derbyshire. He was also entitled to the manors before stated, to be vested in trustees, to raise the purchase money for Winfield; and held, jointly with Katharine his wife, [daughter of Humphry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham] which Katharine survived him, the manor of Wyndefeld, then of the annual value of 20l. the manor of Criche, and the manor of Ufton; George, his son and heir, at the time of taking the inquisition being 3 years of age.⁵

The Countess Katharine held in dower divers lordships in the counties of Salop, Gloucester, and Buckingham;⁶ and, by an inquisition after her death, taken at Derby, 24th July, 16. E. IV.⁷ it is found that Katharine, then late Countess of Shrewsbury, also held, in Derbyshire, the manors of Monyash, and Childerston alias Chelmerdon, for her life, of the inheritance of George, then Earl of Shrewsbury; and that Henry Stafford, Knt. (son of Humphry, then late Duke of Buckingham) John Barre, Knt. William Comberford, and others, were seised of the manors of Wynfeld,

¹ Pat. 11. E. IV. p. 1. m. 7. ² Ib. m. 3. ³ Rot. Scot. 12. E. IV. m. 19. ⁴ Efc. 13. E. IV. n. 52. ⁵ Ib. ⁶ Pat. 15. E. IV. p. 2. m. 12. ⁷ Efc. 16. E. IV. n. 58.

Criche, and Ufton, and granted them to John, then late Earl of Shrewsbury, and Katharine his wife; to hold to them and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to the Earl's right heirs: that the Countess was accordingly seised thereof at her death, which happened on the 26th of December, then last; and that George, then (4th) Earl of Shrewsbury, her son and heir, was 7 years of age, on Thursday next after the Feast of St. Hilary, then last.

George, fourth Earl of Shrewsbury, on the 18th of April, 15°. E. IV. when little more than six years of age was made a Knight of the Bath, with Edward, Prince of Wales, and others:¹ and previous to the battle of Bosworth, the forces of this Earl of Shrewsbury, consisting of 2000 men,² were led by his uncle, Sir Gilbert Talbot, to the assistance of Henry Earl of Richmond against King Richard the Third; and having given him the meeting at Newport in Shropshire, accompanied him to the battle fought near Bosworth, on the 22d of August, 1485, where Sir Gilbert Talbot commanded the right wing of the Earl of Richmond's army;³ and for this service was knighted in the field,⁴ and made a Knight Bannerett on the 28th of October following,⁵ (1. H. VII.)

In the 1st year of King Henry VII. the Earl of Shrewsbury had livery of his lands.⁶ In the 2d of Henry VII. he met the King near Nottingham, in his way to the battle of Stoke, fought against Lambert Simnel, on the 16th of June, 1487, and having shared in the victory that day obtained by the King,⁷ he, for the reward of his services, was immediately afterwards made a Knight of the Garter.⁸

¹ Howe's Annals, p. 429.

² ³ ⁴ ⁵ Ib. p. 468, 469, 470, and 471.

⁶ Pat. 1. H. VII.

⁷ Baker, p. 255.

⁸ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 342.

In April, A°. 6. H. VII. (1491) he was amongst the great, and experienced men, who were convened to London upon the disputes between the Emperor Maximilian, and Charles, King of France :¹ and on the 16th of October following, (7. H. VII.) after the demolition of the town of Ardres, he was with the Earl of Oxford at Morgifon, in Picardy, when he met King Henry and accompanied him, in behalf of Maximilian, to the siege of Boulogne; where peace was concluded between the English and the French.²

In the 1st year of King Henry VIII. he was constituted one of the Chamberlains of the Exchequer,³ High Steward of the King's household,⁴ and a Privy Counsellor.⁵

In the 5th of Henry VIII. (1514) he led the van of the English army into France; and arriving at Calais the middle of May, commenced the siege of Therovenne on the 29th of June following; where, being on the 20th of July joined by King Henry, and having fought at the battle of Spurs, (so called from the precipitate flight of the French horse) he, on the 18th of August, entered the town of Therovenne, then surrendered by capitulation, and on the 21st of September led the van guard of the English army to the siege of Tournay, which was also taken.⁶

On the 7th of June, 12. H. VIII. (1520) he was present at the interview between King Henry and King Francis the First, of France, between Guisnes and Ardres; and he was also at the celebrated warlike exercises performed there during several days afterwards.⁷

¹ Vita Hen. VII. p. 572.

² Howe, 476.—Baker, 258.

³ Pat. 1. H. VIII. p. 2. m. 7.

⁴ ⁵ Baker, 272.

⁶ Ib. p. 276, and 277.

⁷ Howe, 508.

In April following, he was one of the judges who sat on the trial of the Duke of Buckingham :¹ and in 14. H. VIII. he was appointed Lieutenant-General of the North, to oppose an invasion then intended from Scotland, by the Duke of Albany : and having by his letters prepared the counties north of Trent, he marched towards Scotland with an army of 28,000 men ; by which preparations the Duke of Albany's schemes were defeated.²

In 17. H. VIII. he was appointed Constable of the castles of Radnor and Wigmore ;³ and in 1537, (29. H. VIII.) on the insurrection in the North, called the Pilgrimage of Grace, he of his own authority raised an army for the suppression of the rebels : but doubting whether this voluntary service might not bring upon him some trouble, he immediately sent to the King, to justify his conduct, and to request the royal authority to proceed. To this precaution he was probably induced by the suspicions spread amongst his forces that his attachment to the King was questionable ; to remove which suspicions, he swore, in the presence of the whole army, to persevere in his fidelity : after which, the King sent to his assistance the Duke of Norfolk and others of the nobility, with a great army ; which being united with the Earl's army, at Doncaster, the rebels were there dispersed.⁴

His Lordship died at Winfield the 26th of July, (1541) 33. H. VIII.⁵ having, by his testament, dated 21st August, 29. H. VIII. bequeathed his body to be buried in the church of Sheffield, by the side of Anne, his first

¹ Baker, p. 285. ² Holinshed, p. 1522, and 1523. ³ Pat. 17. H. VIII. p. 1. ⁴ Baker, p. 303. ⁵ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 342. and Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 332.

wife ;

wife; where he appointed a tomb of marble to be set over his grave, with the images of himself and his two wives.¹ He left behind him this character; that he was a person noble, wise, and moderate in all his actions—"Vir nobilis, sapiens, ac in omnibus vitæ partibus moderatus."² Two of his daughters, Anne and Dorothy, were born at Winfield.³

Francis, fifth Earl of Shrewsbury, eldest son and successor of George, was born at Sheffield Castle, A°. 1500, (16. H. VII.⁴) and had summons to Parliament, amongst the Barons, on the 17th of February, 24. H. VIII.⁵ whilst his father was living. In 33. H. VIII. he had a grant from the King of the site of the priory of Worktop, and divers other lands belonging to dissolved monasteries.⁶ In 34. H. VIII. he was with the Duke of Norfolk in the army sent into Scotland, to punish the affront offered to this kingdom by the King of Scots having entertained the northern rebels: and entering Scotland on the 21st of October, he was at the burning of

¹ Dug. Bar. ut sup.—He was accordingly buried at Sheffield, where a noble monument was erected to his memory; on which, round the verge of the lid, is the following inscription:

"Hic situs est illustris vir Georgius Comes Salopie, Weshfordie, et Waterfordie, Dominus Talbot,
 "Fornivalle, Vardon, ac Strange, atq. etiam Primarius Architrclin's Regie Dom's invictis-
 "sime Regis Henrici octavi, et Miles nobilissimi illius ordinis de Garter. *Hic quoq. jacent*
 "Corpora Domine An'e et Elizabeth ej. uxoru. quarum quidem illa nata fuit Domini
 "Hastryngs Prefectus Cubiculi Primarij Serenissimo Regi Edwardo Quarto; Hec vero Filia
 "fuit D'i Ricardi Walden militis. D. ille Georgius obiit xxvi. die Julij Anno Domini
 "M.D.XXX.VIII."

Nota. His second wife was not buried at Sheffield, but at Erith in Kent. Vide Lodge's Illustrations of British History, V. I. p. xii.

² Dug. Bar. ut sup.

³ Ib.

⁴ Ib.

⁵ Ib.

⁶ Pat. 33. H. VIII. p. 4.

several towns and villages.¹ In 1543, (35. H. VIII.²) he had an order from the Duke of Suffolk, then the King's Lieutenant in the North,³ dated at Newcastle the 12th of August, to prepare 100 archers and 200 bill-men, ready armed for war, with a gentleman to be Captain of each 100 men, and with their Petty Captains, who were to march to Berwick, and to be under the command of Rauffe Eure, Knt. as soon as the Duke should send his appointment for that purpose.⁴ And by a letter, dated the 22d of January following, it appears that the Earl of Shrewsbury had then obtained the office of Lieutenant-General of the North:⁵ though Dugdale, who cites the authority of Lord Herbert, states him to have obtained it in 36. H. VIII.⁶

In 36. H. VIII. in the quarrel between the English and Scots concerning the treaty for marriage of Prince Edward to the young Queen, Mary, of Scotland; to which the Scots refused their consent; he was with the army sent into Scotland, to revenge the affront the English conceived themselves to have sustained from the Scots in that treaty; and landing in

¹ Holinshed, p. 1587, misprinted 1595.—In Mr. Lodge's Illustrations of British History, V. I. pp. 36, and 37. is a letter of the Duke of Norfolk to the Earl of Shrewsbury, written from York the 19th of September, (1542) previous to the expedition into Scotland; by which the Duke desires the Earl to defer setting out six days longer, and to be at Newcastle, with his men, on the 7th of October, then next. The Earl, it seems, was desirous to receive conduct money, and money for coats, (liveries) and the Treasurer of War not being prepared with money for the payment, the Duke requests the Earl *to be patient*. It is no unreasonable presumption that the great men of those days found themselves unavoidably incumbered with expences, in the service of the Crown, which were with much greater ease incurred, than they could afterwards procure them to be reimbursed.

² ³ ⁴ Holinshed, p. 1589. and Lodge's Illustrations of British History, V. I. pp. 51, and 52.

⁵ Ib. p. 50. ⁶ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 333.

Scotland the 4th of May, he commanded the rear of the English army at the besieging and taking of Leith, which was followed by the burning of Edinburgh, Leith, and many other places; and by dreadful devastations committed by the English there, and in the circumjacent country, from that time till their return to Berwick on the 18th of May.¹

In 1545, (37. H. VIII.) the Earl of Shrewsbury, after having conducted himself in the office of Lieutenant of the North greatly to the satisfaction of his Sovereign, was superseded;² and in reward for his services, he was installed a Knight of the Garter the 17th of May, 1545:³ after which, the Earl of Hertford being appointed Lieutenant of the North, the Earl of Shrewsbury had a command from him, on the 22d of August, in the same year, to furnish his prescribed number of his servants and tenants, who were to repair to Newcastle on the 2d of September, to punish a threatened invasion from the Scots.⁴ In May 1547, he had again obtained the office of the Lieutenant of the Northern Counties; and, hearing of the warlike preparations of the Scots, ordered the necessary musters, within the counties in his jurisdiction, for the defence of the realm:⁵ and on the 10th of August, 1547,⁶ (1. E. VI.) a request was sent to him from the Protector, Somerset, to attend at Berwick on the 6th of September following in that service.

In the 2d of Edward VI. he was sent into Scotland with 15,000 men, against the Scots and French, whom he compelled to raise the siege of Haddington; and, after having victualled and reinforced the town, and

¹ Holinshed, pp. 1592, and 1593.—Baker, 309.

p. xiii. ⁴ Ib. pp. 107, and 108.—Baker, 311.

⁶ Ib. pp. 118, and 119.

² Lodge's Illust. V. I. p. 107.

³ Ib.

⁵ Lodge's Illust. V. I. pp. 116, and 117.

made an ineffectual attempt to bring the enemy to action, he destroyed Dunbar, and then returned into England. It is said by Holinshed, that when the noble Earl of Shrewsbury entered Haddington, he found the distresses of his gallant countrymen, by whom it was garrisoned, had been so great, that he could not refrain from tears.¹

The same year he was appointed Justice in Eyre of the forests north of Trent:² and, in October 1549, (3. E. VI.) he was one of the Lords who signed the first proclamation declaring the Protector, Somerset, a traitor:³ in consequence of which, Somerset was, for a while, committed to the Tower. The Earl of Shrewsbury was of the Privy Council⁴ to King Edward; one of the chief mourners at the King's funeral;⁵ and, after the death of the King, being one of the Lords of the Council who had engaged their allegiance to Lady Jane Grey, he subscribed the letter to Queen Mary, dated the 9th of July 1553, denying her right to the Crown.⁶ But this was so little resented by Mary, that on her accession to the Crown he was immediately pardoned;⁷ and soon after appointed President of the Council in the North, and Lieutenant of the Northern Counties:⁸ and on the 17th of April 1554, (1°. Mariæ) he was one of the commissioners on the trial of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, for a conspiracy in Wyatt's insurrection:⁹ in which, after Sir Nicholas had conducted himself with great skill and ingenuity, and was acquitted by the jury, the judges compelled the jurors to enter into recognizances of 500l. each, for their appearance in the Star Chamber; and on their appearance there, the jurors were all committed to prison for their verdict. In this extraordinary trial, the

¹ Holinshed, pp. 1637, and 1638.

² Pat. 2. E. VI. p. 2.

³ Holinshed, p. 1700.

⁴ ⁵ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 343.

⁶ ⁷ Holinshed, p. 1717.

⁸ Lodge's Illust. V. I.

pp. 195, 198, &c.

⁹ Holinshed, p. 1737, &c.

notes of which should be recommended to those who are discontented with the present times, the Earl of Shrewsbury's moderation is unimpeached;¹ though several of the judges appear to have behaved in a very reprehensible manner.

On the 12th of November, 1°. and 2°. P. and M. he carried the Cap of Maintenance² before the Queen, in her procession to Parliament with the King.

In October 1557, (4°. and 5°. P. and M.) on an invasion threatened by the Scots, he, in virtue of his office of Lieutenant of the North, assembled an army in Northumberland, to resist their entry into England; by which timely precaution, the designs of the enemy were defeated; and their forces, then drawn together on the borders, were dispersed.³

At the funeral of Queen Mary, he was one of the four Noblemen appointed to ride as assistants on each side of the chair with the Presentation.⁴

¹ THROCKMORTON. "My Lords, I pray you make not too much haste with me, neither thinke "not long for your dinner, for my case requireth leysure, and you have wel dined when you have "done justice truly, &c."

BROMLEY. (Ch. Justice.) "I can forbear my dinner as well as you, and care as little as you "peradventure."

SHREWSBURY. "Come you hither to checke us Throckmorton? wee will not bee so used, "no, no, I for my parte have forborne my breakfast, dinner, and supper to serve the Queene."

THROCKMORTON. "Yea my good Lord I know it right wel, I meant not to touche your Lord- "ship, for youre service and pains is evidently knowen to al men."

Holinshed, p. 1738.

² Holinshed, p. 1759.

³ Lodge's Illust. V. I. p. 290.

⁴ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 343.

On the 21st of November 1558, four days after Queen Elizabeth's accession to the Crown, the Earl of Shrewsbury, with the Marquis of Winchester, and the Earl of Derby, were ordered by the Lords of the Council to attend the Queen, at London, on the Wednesday following, with their servants and train; and to give notice to the rest of the nobility, also, to attend her.¹ The Earl of Shrewsbury was one of the commissioners appointed to receive claims of services to be performed at her Coronation;² after which she immediately appointed him of her Privy Council;³ and in May 1559, he was put in commission for levying a subsidy⁴ then granted by Parliament: and he had the honour to be continued in the office of President of the Council in the North.⁵

The next year, he, and the Viscount Montague, honestly, though mistakenly, refusing to adopt the compliant spirit of the rest of the Parliament, stood alone in opposition to the bill then passed for the abolition of the Pope's supremacy in England, and for the reformation of religion:⁶ but soon afterwards, viz. 21st September, that year, (1560) the Earl of Shrewsbury died.⁷

“ This is the man whose greatness was but the servant to his goodness;
 “ and whose honour, the instrument of his virtue: who was revered
 “ like the heavens, [whose stamp] he bore, for his beneficence, as well as
 “ his glory. He saw four troublesome reigns, but not troubled himself;
 “ as one that was so espoused to the common and grand concerns of man-
 “ kinde, as to be uninterested in the particular and petty designe of any

¹ Lodge's Illust. V. I. p. 301.

² Pat. 1^o. Eliz.

³ Baker, 349.

⁴ Lodge's Illust.

V. I. p. 304.

⁵ Ib. p. 306.

⁶ Camden's Hist. of Q. Eliz.

⁷ Lodge's Peerage, V. I.

p. 343.

“ party

“ party of it.”¹ In times when politicks were continually uncertain, and varying; and often contradictory; and when countenance and favour, were, with most men, but the preludes to humiliation and ruin, he lived in honour, respect, and confidence with his sovereigns: “ he had friends “ (and none more sure to them, or more devoted to that sacred thing “ called Friendship) to ease his heart to, to support his judgement by, to “ reforme, or at least to observe his defect in, to compose his mind with; “ but none to countenance in a faction, or side with in a quarrel.”²

He left behind him the reputation of the chiefest counsellor, “ and “ most eminent scholar of his age;”³ and was buried with his father, at Sheffield;⁴ but without a monument. His heirs, probably, considering his name as too great for eulogium, and as incapable of being rendered more durable by brass, or marble.

George, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, only surviving son and successor of Earl Francis, on the 7th of October 1557, (3. and 4. P. and M.) was sent by his father with 1600 men to Alnwick in Northumberland, to prevent an expected invasion from Scotland;⁵ and, proceeding from Alnwick on the 11th of October, to the assistance of the Lord Warden of the North, his father sent him a reinforcement of 600 men from Newcastle:⁶ and in this service, having at length the command of 3000 men, he proceeded to Lowick, and relieved the Earl of Northumberland, who was there pent up by the Scottish forces.⁷

¹ ² ³ Lloyd's Characters of Statesmen, &c. temp: H. VIII. &c. printed 1665. pp. 342, and 343.

⁴ Lodge's Peerage ut sup.

⁵ Lodge's Illust. V. I. pp. 283, and 284.

⁶ Ib. p. 284.

⁷ Inscrip. sup. Tum. apud Sheffield.

At the funeral of Queen Mary, in 1558, he was one of the Noblemen's sons, who were armed at all points, except the head, each of them carrying in his hand a pole axe, and riding on a courser, richly caparisoned.¹

The 23d of December 1559, (2°. Eliz.) the Duke of Norfolk being appointed to have the direction of an army, to be sent into the North, to counteract the designs of the French respecting Scotland,² this George, then called Lord Talbot, (his father, Earl Francis, being still living) had directions to raise forces in Derbyshire: and in that service he had the command of a regiment of 500 horsemen, on the borders.³

In September following, he succeeded his father in the Earldom of Shrewsbury; and on the 24th of April 1561, (3°. Eliz.) he was elected a Knight of the Garter, and installed at Windsor on the 17th of May.⁴ In 1565, he had the office of Justice in Eyre of the forests north of Trent;⁵ and the same year, (7°. Eliz.) he was appointed Lieutenant-General of the counties of York, Nottingham, and Derby.⁶ In January 1568, (11°. Eliz.) when the Queen of Scots was committed to his custody, he was sworn of the Privy Council to Queen Elizabeth.⁷ In 15°. Eliz. (1572) upon the arraignment of the Duke of Norfolk for treason, in attempting to marry the Queen of Scots, the Earl of Shrewsbury was appointed Lord High Steward of England⁸ for his Grace's trial; and after the Duke's execution, the Earl of Shrewsbury was, on the 2d of January 1573, (16°. Eliz.) appointed to succeed him as Earl Marshal of England;⁹ and to hold the

¹ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 344.

² Holinshed, p. 1803.

³ Lodge's Illust. p. 308—311.

& Inferip. sup. Tum. apud Sheffield.

⁴ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 344.

⁵ Lodge's Illust.

V. I. p. 350.

⁶ Ib. p. 351.

⁷ Ib. V. II. p. 7.

⁸ Camden's Eliz.

⁹ Lodge's

Peerage; V. I. p. 344.

office for life. In 1589, (31^o. Eliz.) he was Lord Lieutenant of the counties of Stafford, Derby, and Nottingham;¹ and died the 18th of November, 33. Eliz. (1570) leaving Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, his eldest surviving son and heir: who, on taking the inquisition the 13th of April following, was found to be of the age of 37 years.²

The Queen of Scots was first committed to the custody of Earl George, in January 1568, (11^o. Eliz.) in the castle of Queen Elizabeth, (belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster) at Tutbury in Staffordshire;³ and continued under his care till the month of September 1584.⁴ In this service he preserved his fidelity to Elizabeth unshaken: but he was so perpetually teized by her suspicions, and those of her ministers, that his office, which might otherwise have been desirable to so great a Nobleman, as a distinguished mark of honour and confidence, appears to have inflicted upon him a severity of punishment little inferior to that of his unfortunate captive. The fear of Elizabeth's displeasure induced him, at times, to a moroseness in his behaviour to Mary, which implanted in her bosom sentiments of distaste and resentment, that her high spirit could not be subdued by her sufferings to dissemble; whilst, at other times, by real, or colourable marks of kindness, and attention to Mary, he drew upon himself the malevolence of a wife,⁵ ever alive to jealousy, and prepared to empoison his comforts; and the suspicions and rebukes of his Queen, who had

¹ Lodge's Illust. V. II. p. 387.

² Efc. 33^o. Eliz. n. 106. p. 2. As this inquisition contains an account of the vast possessions then enjoyed by the Shrewsbury family, an abstract of it will be given in the Appendix.

³ Camden's Eliz. and Lodge's Illust. V. II. p. 7.
308.

⁵ His second wife, Elizabeth Hardwicke.

⁴ Lodge's Illust. V. II. pp. 307, and

no trifling satisfaction in mortifying and humiliating the greatest of her subjects.

His Lordship was buried in the church of Sheffield, where he had erected for himself a costly monument, which still remains, to preserve his memory.¹

He

¹ This inscription was placed upon his monument in his life-time; a blank being left for the time of his death, which has not been supplied.

“ Christo opt. max. et Posteritati Sacrum.

“ In spem certam futuræ resurrectionis, illustris hic conditur heros, Georgius Salopiæ Comes, sui nobilissimi generis, longâ seric, à Normannorum conquestu derivati; nullaque unquam perfidiæ labeculâ aspersi. Comitum ordine sextus; summus Regni Marefcallus; à Talbotto, Furnivallo, Verdun, Lovetoft, Extraneoque de Blackmere, honoribus amplissimis, dominus insuper et Baro nuncupatus: Garteriani quoque equestris ordinis, sanè præclarissimi sodalis dignissimus. Francisci comitis unicus, qui supererat, filius, et successor; omniumque virtutum, ex asse hæres. Qui, quantum Pacis, Bellique artibus; omnibusque corporis atque animi dotibus eximiis unitis potuit; id omne, secundum pietatem in Deum, uni patriæ, ejusque principibus impendere solebat: Ut, qui Mariæ Reginæ temporibus, in Northumbrensis comitis succursum, à patre tum supersite, ac Belli duci primario, cum tribus armatorum millibus, ad Lowicum, in Scotiam, ire jussus, strenuè, summaque cum laude, bellicam illam præfecturam administrabat: Parique cum laude, et non minori successu, paulo post Berwicum, hosti in occursum missus, quingentorum cataphractorum equitum cohortu stipatus fuit; concomitantibus Barone Grayo, strenuo equite Drurio, aliisque militaris scientiæ peritissimis, Bellique principatum, tum gerente Westmario Comite. Deinde, Regnante Elizabetha, Anglorum Reginâ, cum Scotorum Reginâ Mariâ, prelio domi superatâ, in Angliam compulsa est; atque apud Scotici limitis præfectum primum diverteret: donec in utriusque Regni perniciem, magna molire est comperta; huic illustri comiti tutiùs custodiendâ tradita An. MDLXVIII. Quem penès, honorificè et splendide satis, usque annum MDLXXXIII. per tria amplis lustra est hospitata, non sine magnâ ipsius hospitis impensâ, curaque anxîâ vix exprimenda. Qui, divinâ providentiâ gubernante, in causâ tam arduâ, cujus magnitudo gravissima, utilitas publica fuit, tam laudate ac sæliciter secessit, eum virum fidelem, non minus quàm providum, atque prudentem, ipsa invidia judicare debet. Quamque semper ab omni suspitione perfidiæ fuerat

“ alienus,

He married two wives. The second was Elizabeth, daughter, and, at length, sole heir, of John Hardwicke, of Hardwicke, Com. Derb. Esq. and widow successively of Robert Barley, Esq. and William Cavendish, and William St. Lo, Knights. She had no issue either by Barley, St. Lo, or by the Earl, her fourth husband. The great objects of her life were the indulgence of her own pride, and the aggrandisement of her children by Sir William Cavendish, to which she sacrificed every other consideration. She appropriated to herself the greatest part of the fortunes of her first and third husbands, and made the marriage of her eldest son with one of the Earl of Shrewsbury's daughters, and of the Earl's second son, and successor, with her youngest daughter, the instruments of continual vexation to her fourth husband, whom she also survived.

By his first wife, the daughter of the Earl of Rutland, the Earl had many children. Francis Lord Talbot, his eldest son, died in his life-time

“ alienus, illud declarat; quod, licet à malevolis, propter suspectam cum captivâ Regina familiari-
 “ tatem sepius malè audiret. Cum tamen ejusdem Reginae causa, ex senatus Regni consultu à
 “ proceribus, in arce Fodringhamensi cognoscenda esset, inter magnates, qui reatus sui, in testi-
 “ monium ac vindictam admittendi erant, hunc nobilissimum Comitem, serenissima Regina Elizabetha
 “ notum esse voluit; illumque, post judicium latum, ejusdem sententiæ transactorem constituit; dato
 “ ab hoc Diplomate regio, magno sigillo Angliæ communito. Ita vir iste, genere clarus, publicis
 “ bene gestis magistratibus clarior, domi ac foris clarissimus; illustris erga principem, et patriam
 “ fidei, et summi apud omnes honoris, quem ad fatalem mature senectutis horam, sine fortunæ
 “ ludibrio perduxerat, eterno numini spiritum à quo acceperat, firmum in christo fidem, placidè et
 “ tranquillè reddidit, [XVIII die] mensis [Novembris] anno Redemptoris Christi MD[XC].

“ Ex priore conjugè D. Gartruda, Thomæ Rutlandiæ comitis natâ, utriusque sexus prolem suscepit
 “ egregiam: Franciscum scil. primogenitum, et superflitem, à vivis sublatum; Gilbertum hæredum
 “ futurum; Edovardum, Henricum; Catherinam Herberto regulo copulatam, et sine sobole ex-
 “ tinctam; Mariam, Georgio Savillo equiti desponsatam; et Graciam Henrico Cavendishii equitis
 “ hæredi, nuptum.”

(1582) without issue: Gilbert, his second son, was his successor: Henry, his third son, was representative of the county of Derby in the Parliaments of 27. and 28. Eliz.¹ and left two daughters: and Edward, his fourth son, was the successor of Gilbert in the Earldom of Shrewsbury. The marriages of the daughters of Earl George will be found in the genealogical table of the Talbot family.

Gilbert, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury, eldest surviving son and successor of Earl George, when 18 years of age was elected one of the Knights to represent the county of Derby in Parliament; and continued it's representative from the commencement of the Parliament which began at Westminster the 8th of May, 14th Eliz. (1572) till it's dissolution, 18th March, 23d Eliz. 1580.² During this time he was a frequent attendant on the Court of Elizabeth;³ but without any employment, either of profit or confidence. For though we find him in company with the Earl of Lincoln,⁴ who was sent on an embassy to France, for ratification of a league between the English and the French, in A°. 15°. Eliz. yet, it seems, he was rather sent, being the eldest son of one of the greatest Peers of England, as an ornament to the train of the Earl of Lincoln, than from any personal respect to himself. In the 22d of Elizabeth, a short time before the death of his father, he was summoned to Parliament amongst the Barons;⁵ and on the 20th of June 1592, (34. Eliz.) he was installed a Knight of the Garter.⁶

In September 1596, (38. Eliz.) he was sent to Henry the Fourth of France, to administer to him the oath for the observance of the treaty

¹ Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria.

² Ib.

³ Lodge's Illust. V. II. pp. 100. 169. &c.

⁴ Camden's Eliz.

⁵ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 334.

⁶ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 345.

entered into between Henry and Queen Elizabeth; and also to present Sir Anthony Mildmay as the English Ambassador to the Court of France, in the room of Sir Henry Unton, deceased; and to invest King Henry with the insignia of the Order of the Garter.*

On

* This employment of the Earl of Shrewsbury is mentioned by Camden in the History of Queen Elizabeth; but a more full account of it is given in Howes' Annals, from which the following note will not, I trust, appear obtrusive.

The Earl departed from Dover the 16th of September 1596, the day on which he wrote the letter to Lord Burleigh, inserted in Lodge's Illustrations of British History, (V. III. pp. 76, and 77.) and arriving at Dieppe, in France, the Thursday se'nnight following, was there nobly entertained; after which, on the 27th of September he set forwards on his journey towards Rouen, and was met on his way by Monsr. de Feruaques and his train, who conducted him to the castle of Claire. The next morning, when he was arrived within two miles of Rouen, he was met by the Duke de Montpensier, the King's Lieutenant of that city, attended by 200 of the nobility and gentry, on horseback, who conducted him to his lodgings in the market place, where he had an house richly furnished with hangings and tapits, three cloths of estate, and two state beds; and on his escutcheons he stiled himself "*Gilbert Comte de Shrewsbury, Baron Talbot, Strange de Blackmere, Comyn de Badenagh, Valence, Montchenfi, Furnival, Verdon et Lovetot, Chevalier du tres noble Ordre de la Jarritiere.*" On Wednesday the 5th of October the King of France made his entry into Rouen, where he was most magnificently received; and the day following he gave audience to the Earl of Shrewsbury and Sir Anthony Mildmay, and welcomed them, and the Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen, their attendants. On the 9th of October the oath was administered in the church of St. Owen, in the presence of the French nobility, Lords Spiritual and Temporal. On Sunday the 10th of October, the ceremony of the investiture of the Order of the Garter was performed. The arms of both Princes, and their estates, were set up in the church: those of the Queen, as Sovereign of the Order, being placed on the right side of the quire; as were also the arms, stile, and state, of the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Queen's Ambassador. Before the Queen's estate sat Garter King at Arms; and before the Earl stood Somerset Herald. Beneath the Earl sat the Lord Ambassador, Leaguer, (Sir Anthony Mildmay) the Lords Cromwell and Rich, and divers English Knights and Gentlemen, according to their several degrees. On the left hand sat the King of France, between the Bishops of Anjou and Eureux. Before the King's state sat his Chancellor, Cheverney, alone; and before him stood Anjou, Picardy,

On the 19th of February 1601, he was one of the Peers who sat on the trial of the Earls of Essex and Southampton.¹ In June 1601, (43°. Eliz.) he was appointed of the Privy Council to the Queen:² and on the accession of James he was continued in the Privy Council.³ He was also, in the 1st year of James I. appointed Warden and Chief Justice of the forests north

and Brittany Heralds. In the falls sat the Knights of St. Esprit; viz. the Duke de Montpensier, the Duke de Nevers, the Duke de Nemours, the Prince de Vandemont, the Duke de Montmorency, Constable of France, and his brother, the Admiral; the Duke de Joyeuse, the Duke de Bouillon, the Marshal de Retz, and the Marshal Matignon. After this ceremony performed, the King took the Earl by the hand, and they returned from the church; the nobility proceeding two and two before them. That night the King and the Earl supped, under one estate, in the house of the Duke de Montpensier, where a general feast was provided for the English. On Thursday the 14th of October, the King took the Earl into his coach to the bridge of Rouen, to see a sea fight, which was performed at the expence of the citizens, for the King's entertainment, between two French ships and two supposed Spanish ships, and one Brasilian; and on the 15th of October, the Earl, after a kind and respectful reception, kissed the King's hand, and took leave of him; being presented by his Majesty with a jewel, set with a rich diamond, as a token of his royal regard; which his Majesty further extended to the Earl's attendants, by the gift of 500 crowns to Garter, and 200 crowns to Somerset: and on the 29th of October, the Earl landed on the Downs near Dover. Thus ended this interview, which, in the splendour of preparations, and pomp of entertainment, has not been equalled in the reception of any subsequent English embassy. I have been the more particular in noticing it, from an impression created by the contemplation of fallen greatness, which naturally deepens in minds disposed to commiserate misfortune. The monarchy of France, once rising in magnificence far above the Thrones of surrounding Potentates, is now humbled to the dust; and its nobility, formerly shining amongst those of other nations, as the stars of a greater sun, it has been reserved for us to see deprived of their honours and their estates, and scattered abroad over the face of the earth, wherever humanity, and obscurity, have offered them a safe asylum. There are many particulars of these ceremonies, which the bounds of this work oblige me to omit: but the reader, whose curiosity calls for further information, may be more amply gratified by the perusal of Howes' Annals of England, p. 777, &c. Vide also Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 334.

¹ Camden's Eliz.

² Howes' Annals, p. 796.

³ Ib. p. 817.

of Trent:¹ and dying on the 8th of May 1616, at his house in Broadstreet, London, was buried at Sheffield.²

This Earl had the reputation of supporting in virtue, splendour, and hospitality, the situation which devolved upon him from his ancestors.³ He was superior to most of his cotemporaries in the polished graces of the courtier, though he was little attended to by the Court,⁴ beyond the ceremonious civilities which his high rank and immense revenues ensured. He could not have a more flattering testimony of the dignity of his behaviour, than that of Henry the Fourth of France, the greatest monarch of the age in which he lived; who seems, after the Earl's embassy into France, to have anxiously taken occasion of mentioning his esteem and respectful remembrance of the Earl's noble deportment.⁵

He was early in life involved in disputes with his father,⁶ prejudicial both to his pecuniary circumstances, and to his domestick comfort: and, after the death of his father, these disputes, as far as they were connected with the family estates, were extended to his brothers. In these he appears to have relapsed from the dignified carriage, and suavity of manners, by which he was generally distinguished; and in a quarrel with his brother Edward,⁷ who opposed him with firmness and humility, his letters are couched in terms of insolence, meanness, and prevarication, disgraceful to a gentleman: but we must recollect that, in the most brilliant characters some clouds have irresistibly (and, as it were, in the common course of things, to prove the imperfection of human nature) arisen to diminish the blaze of glory: that

¹ Pat. 1^o. Jac.

² Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 345.

³ Camden's Britannia—Shropshire.

⁴ Lodge's Illustrations.

⁵ Ib. V. III. p. 92. and Howes' Annals, p. 782.

⁶ Lodge's

Illust. V. II. p. 293.

⁷ Ib. V. III. pp. 50—64.

these varieties of character might be strongly influenced by the times in which he lived;—times not fully emerged from feudal barbarism; and whose tincture may palliate, though it cannot justify, his conduct:—and that we cannot, without flagrant injustice, try the actions of men living in the reign of Elizabeth, or James the First, by the standard of manners in the latter end of the 18th century.

Earl Gilbert was married, when scarcely 19 years of age, to Mary, third daughter of William Cavendish, Knt.¹ by Elizabeth Hardwick, and had issue three daughters, who shared the greatest part of his inheritance, and between whom his numerous baronies, being baronies in fee, lay in abeyance; 'till, by the death of two of the daughters without issue, the baronies became entirely vested in the family of Howard.

Edward, only surviving brother of Gilbert, succeeded him in the Earldoms of Shrewsbury, Wexford, and Waterford;² and in 1617 was appointed of the Council to William Lord Compton, President of Wales;³ and died the 17th of February, the same year, without issue.⁴ He was buried in the chapel of St. Edmund, in Westminster Abbey, under a stately monument erected by his wife, Jane, daughter and coheir of Cuthbert Lord Ogle; who, surviving her Lord, was afterwards buried with him.⁵

The

¹ Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 334.

^{2 3 4 5} Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 34.

On the monument which contains the images of the Earl and Countess, in their robes, is the following inscription:

“*Memoriæ S.*

“*Edwardo ex inclytâ Talbotorum familiâ, octavo Comiti-Salopiæ, Weishfordiæ, et Waterford;*

“*Domº. Talbot. Comin de Badenhagh, Valence, Monchenfy, Strange de Blackmere, Gifford de*

“*Brimesfeld, Clifford de Corsham, Furnival, Verdon, et Lovetoft; Viro omnibus titulis undequaque*

“*pari;*

The titles of Earl of Shrewsbury, &c. after the death of Earl Edward, passed to George Talbot, great great grandson of Sir Gilbert Talbot, third son of John, second Earl of Shrewsbury, for whose descent I must refer to the Talbot pedigree.

I now come to the daughters and coheirs of Gilbert, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury; of whom Mary, married in 1604 to William Herbert, third Earl of Pembroke;¹ Elizabeth, married to Henry Grey, seventh Earl of Kent;² and Alatheia, married to Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel.³

William, third Earl of Pembroke, was Lord Chamberlain of the Household to King James the First, by whom he was made Knight of the Garter, and Governor of Portsmouth. He was also Chancellor of the University of Oxford; and appointed by King Charles the First, Lord Steward of his Household; Warden, and Chief Justice in Eyre, of all the forests south of Trent; Warden of the Stannaries; and a Privy Counsellor.⁴ The Earl of Clarendon,⁵ in his account of those who were the great Officers of State upon the death of the Duke of Buckingham, (1628) gives this masterly character of the Earl of Pembroke.

“*pari; moribus etiam adeo integris juxta ac suavissimis, ut earum Laudi nihil omnino detraxerit*

“*Titulorum magnitudo; Candore et Pietate haud minus quam genere fuit insignis, nec ullo procerum*

“*solemni vicio Tinctus; sine fastu nobilis; sine jactantia potens; sine superstitione religiosus; mente*

“*ac manu munificus; fortunæ semper securus, tota illi vita fit, nec metam nec terminum recepit.*

“*Ita demum posteritatis certus per conscientiam (dum viator erat) et fama jam fruite defæcatissima,*

“*et ea, post vitæ æruinas, requie cujus se participem in horas exoptat mœstissima conjux Jana,*

“*Cuthberti Baronis Ogle hæredum primogenita, quæ lachrymis immerfa pie Monumentum hoc P.*

“*Obiit die 8^o. Februarii 1617, anno Ætatis 57.*”

¹ Lodge's Illust. V. III. p. 238, &c. and Dug. Bar. V. I. p. 334. ² ³ Dug. ⁴ Collins's Peerage, Edit. 1735. V. II. p. 63. ⁵ Hist. of the Rebellion, V. I. p. 56.—Edit. Oxford, 1732.

“ William

“ William Earl of Pembroke was the most universally beloved and
 “ esteemed of any man of that age; and, having a great office in the
 “ Court, he made the Court itself better esteemed, and more revered in
 “ the country : and as he had a great number of friends of the best men,
 “ so no man had ever the confidence to avow himself to be his enemy.
 “ He was a man very well bred, and of excellent parts, and a graceful
 “ speaker upon any subject; having a good proportion of learning, and a
 “ ready wit to apply it, and enlarge upon it: of a pleasant and facetious
 “ humour, and a disposition generous, affable, and magnificent. He was
 “ master of a great fortune from his ancestors, and had a great addition
 “ by his wife; but all served not his expence, which was only limited by
 “ his great mind, and occasions to use it nobly.

“ He lived many years *about* the Court, before *in* it; and never *by* it;
 “ being rather regarded and esteemed by King James, than loved and
 “ favoured. After the foul fall of the Earl of Somerset he was made Lord
 “ Chamberlain of the King’s house, more for the Court’s sake, than his
 “ own; and the Court appeared with more lustre, because he had the
 “ government of that province. As he spent and lived upon his own
 “ fortune, so he stood upon his own feet; without any other support than
 “ of his own proper virtue and merit: and lived towards the favourites
 “ with that decency, as would not suffer them to censure or reproach his
 “ master’s judgement and election, but as with men of his own rank. He
 “ was exceedingly beloved in the Court, because he never desired to get
 “ that for himself which others laboured for, but was still ready to promote
 “ the pretences of worthy men. And he was equally celebrated in the
 “ country, for having received no obligations from the Court which might
 “ corrupt or sway his affections, and judgement: so that all who were
 “ displeased

“ displeased and unsatisfied in the Court, or with the Court, were always
 “ inclined to put themselves under his banner, if he would have ad-
 “ mitted them; and yet he did not so reject them, as to make them
 “ chuse another shelter, but so far suffered them to depend on him, that
 “ he could restrain them from breaking out beyond private resentments
 “ and murmurs.

“ He was a great lover of his country, and of the religion and justice,
 “ which he believed could only support it; and his friendships were only
 “ with men of those principles: and as his conversation was most with
 “ men of the most pregnant parts, and understanding; so towards any
 “ such, who needed support or encouragement, though unknown, if fairly
 “ recommended to him, he was very liberal. Sure never man was planted
 “ in a Court, that was fitter for that soil, or brought better qualities with
 “ them to purify that air.

“ Yet his memory must not be flattered, that his virtues and good in-
 “ clinations may be believed. He was not without some allay of vice,
 “ and without being clouded with great infirmities, which he had in too
 “ exorbitant a proportion. He indulged to himself the pleasures of all
 “ kinds; almost in all excesses. To women, whether out of his natural
 “ constitution, or for want of his domestic content and delight, (*in which*
 “ *he was most unhappy; for he paid much too dear for his wife's fortune, by*
 “ *taking her person into the bargain*) he was immoderately given up: but
 “ therein he likewise retained such a power and jurisdiction over his very
 “ appetite, that he was not so much transported with beauty and outward
 “ allurements, as with those advantages of the mind, as manifested an
 “ extraordinary wit, and spirit, and knowledge; and administered great
 K “ pleasure

“ pleasure in conversation. To these he sacrificed himself, his precious
 “ time, and much of his fortune.

“ About the time of the death of King James, or presently after, he was
 “ made Lord Steward of his Majesty’s house, that the staff of Chamberlain
 “ might be put into the hands of his brother, the Earl of Montgomery,
 “ upon a new contract of friendship with the Duke of Buckingham ; after
 “ whose death, he had likewise such offices of his, as he most affected, of
 “ honour and command : none of profit ; which he cared not for : and
 “ within two years after he died himself, of an apoplexy, after a full and
 “ chearful supper.

“ He died exceedingly lamented by men of all qualities, and left many
 “ of his servants and dependants owners of good estates, raised out of his
 “ employments and bounty. Nor had his heir cause to complain : for
 “ though his expences had been very magnificent, (and it may be the less
 “ considered, and his providence the less, because he had no child to
 “ inherit) inasmuch, as he left a great debt charged upon the estate ; yet,
 “ considering the wealth he left in jewels, plate and furniture, and the
 “ estate his brother enjoyed in the right of his wife, (who was not fit to
 “ manage it herself) during her long life, he may be justly said to have
 “ inherited as good an estate from him as he had from his father, which
 “ was one of the best in England.”

The Earl died in London on the 10th of April 1630, aged 50 years, having had issue an only son, Henry, who died when fifteen days old.¹ From what has fallen from the noble historian, in his character of the Earl

¹ Collins ut sup.

of Pembroke, it seems, the Countess, his survivor, laboured under some incapacity; in consequence of which, his brother and successor, Philip, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, had the management of her estate.

Her share of the manor of Winfield passed into the family of Savile; and, by an inquisition taken at York the 18th of September, 21. Car. 1^o. it is found, that William Savile, Bart. (grandson of Mary Talbot, sister of George, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury) on the 24th of January 1643, died seized thereof, leaving George Savile, Bart. his son and heir, aged 10 years and 2 months at the taking of the inquisition.¹

Sir George was created Baron Savile of Eland, in Yorkshire, and Viscount Halifax, on the 13th of January, 19^o. Car. II.:² in 1679, Earl of Halifax;³ and in 1682, Marquis of Halifax.⁴ He was in the wavering councils of Charles the Second more than once; and more than once in opposition to his ministries: sometimes guarding against, and sometimes favouring, the interests of the Duke of York. On the accession of James the Second, he was appointed President of the Council;⁵ but dissenting from the measures which immediately afterwards were adopted, he was dismissed from his service.⁶ He was made Lord Privy Seal⁷ in the 1st year of William the Third, but soon withdrew from the Court,⁸ and continued in opposition till his death, which happened in April 1695.⁹ Bishop Burnet says¹⁰ he was “a man of a great and ready wit, full of life, and “very pleasant: much turned to satyr. He let his wit run much on

¹ Harl. MSS. 410. Cole's Efc. V. II. f. 87.

² Dug. Bar. V. III. p. 463.

³ Burnet's

Hist. of his own Time, V. I. p. 469.

⁴ Kimber and Johnson's Baronetage, V. I. p. 69.

⁵ Rapin's Hist. of England, V. XV. p. 6.

⁶ Burnet, V. I. p. 654.

⁷ Ib. V. II. p. 4.

⁸ Ib. p. 34.

⁹ Ib. p. 149.

¹⁰ Ib. V. I. pp. 267, and 268.

“ matters of religion : so much, that he passed for a bold and determined
 “ Atheist ; though he often protested to me he was not one ; and said he
 “ believed there was not one in the world. He confessed he could not
 “ swallow down every thing that divines imposed on the world : he was a
 “ Christian in submission : he believed as much as he could ; and he hoped
 “ that God would not lay it to his charge, if he could not digest iron as
 “ an ostrich did, nor take into his belief things that must burst him. If
 “ he had any scruples, they were not sought for, nor cherished by him ;
 “ for he never read an atheistical book. In a fit of sickness, I knew him
 “ very much touched with a sense of religion. I was then often with
 “ him. He seemed full of good purposes, but they went off with his
 “ sickness. He was always talking of morality and friendship. He was
 “ punctual in all payments, and just in all his private dealings : but, with
 “ relation to the publick, he went backwards and forwards, and changed
 “ sides so often, that in conclusion no side trusted him. He seemed full
 “ of commonwealth notions : yet he went into the worst part of King
 “ Charles’s reign. The liveliness of his imagination was always too hard
 “ for his judgement : a severe jest was preferred by him to all arguments
 “ whatsoever ; and he was endless in consultations : for when, after much
 “ discourse a point was settled, if he could find a new jest, or make even
 “ that which was suggested by himself seem ridiculous, he could not hold,
 “ but would study to raise the credit of his wit, though it made others call
 “ his judgement in question.” We must recollect, however, by way of
 qualification to this character, that the Bishop had himself experienced the
 severity of Lord Halifax’s wit ;¹ though the Marquis’s political conduct,
 as interwoven in the history of the times, seems strongly to justify the in-

¹ Cunningham’s Hist. of G. Brit. V. I. p. 145.

stability of character which the Bishop has given to him. He wrote a book of advice to his daughter, concerning the duty and behaviour of women, after the manner of Tully's Offices.¹

William Marquis of Halifax, his son and successor, left three daughters, coheirs, who married into the families of Bruce, Boyle, and Tufton, as appears by the pedigree. And in the 16th year of King George the Second,² an Act of Parliament was passed, intituled "An Act for confirming and establishing a partition made between the coheirs of the right noble William, late Marquis of Halifax, deceased, of divers lands, manors, and hereditaments therein mentioned; and for settling their divided shares thereof to such uses as their respective undivided shares before stood limited; and for other purposes therein mentioned:" by which Act of Parliament the third part of the manor of South Winfield, and divers other estates in Derbyshire, were vested in trustees for the benefit of the then Earl of Thanet and his family.³ And the Earl of Thanet is now the owner of one third part of the manor; but his father, the late Earl, sold the greatest part of his lands at Winfield to different purchasers.

Henry Grey, Earl of Kent, husband of Elizabeth, second daughter of Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, died the 21st of November 1639;⁴ and his Countess, the 7th of December 1651;⁵ both without issue. But, it seems, her share of this manor had, long before her death, passed to her uncle, Edward Talbot, eighth Earl of Shrewsbury;⁶ who, a short time before

¹ Cunningham's Hist. of G. Brit. V. I. p. 111. ² Statute Books, 16. Geo. II. ³ Abstracts of the Earl of Thanet's title, delivered to purchasers. ⁴ Collins's Peerage of England, Edit. 1735. V. I. p. 233. ⁵ Ex relat. J. C. Brooke Ar. *Somerset*. ⁶ Ex. autog. pen. Tho. Pearfon de South Winfield.

his death, viz. by indenture dated the 30th of December, 15. Jac. I.¹ settled his estate at Winfield and other places in the neighbourhood, to such uses, that in the year 1638 his share of this manor stood limited to John Talbot, tenth Earl of Shrewsbury, for life; with remainder to George Talbot, eldest son to John, the tenth Earl, and his heirs males. And on the 18th of January 1638,² this share of South Winfield was part of the lands granted in settlement, previous to the marriage of George Lord Talbot, who was then 14 years old, with Mary, daughter of Piercy Herbert, Knight and Baronet, (afterwards Lord Powys): but George Lord Talbot dying before his father, without issue, Francis, brother of George, and eleventh Earl of Shrewsbury, succeeded;³ who in 1651 (whilst his father was living) raised a company of sixty horsemen, and carried them to the assistance of King Charles the Second at the battle of Worcester; and, escaping with the King, after the defeat of the royal army, he was one of the few persons of the King's party, who had the good fortune to ensure their safety by flight out of the kingdom:⁴ and, having survived the restoration, died the 16th of March 1667, of a wound received in a duel with George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.⁵

Charles, twelfth Earl of Shrewsbury, eldest son and successor of Francis, is spoken of as a distinguished Patriot. He was educated in the Roman Catholick religion, but abjured it in the year 1679;⁶ and at the Coronation of King James the Second, (23d April, 1685) bore the Curtana, or Sword of Mercy.⁷ He had the command of a regiment of horse,⁸ and the office of Lord Chamberlain of the Household, under that King:⁹

^{1 2} Ex. autog. pen. Tho. Pearson de South Winfield.

³ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 349.

⁴ Histoire des Revolutions d'Angleterre, par le Pere d'Orleans, Edit. a la Haye 1729, Tome III. pp. 99, 100, 107.

⁵ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 349.

⁶ Bayle's General Dictionary, V. IX.

p. 568. ^{7 8 9} Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 350.

but,

but, afterwards, disliking the proceedings of James the Second, went into Holland¹ to the Prince of Orange, and was greatly instrumental in effecting the Revolution.²

On the 14th of February 1688, he was appointed of the Privy Council,³ Secretary of State,⁴ and a Commissioner to determine the claims for services to be performed at the Coronation of William and Mary:⁵ and on the day of the Coronation, the 11th of April following, bore the Curtana,⁶ as he had done for James the Second. In March 1689, he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Hertford;⁷ and in April following had a grant of the same authority, in the counties of Worcester and Hereford.⁸ In 1690 he left the Court in disgust;⁹ but in 1693 he was persuaded by the King to re-accept the office of Secretary of State:¹⁰ and on the 30th of April 1694, he was created Duke of Shrewsbury, and Marquis of Alton, in the county of Stafford:¹¹ and on the 5th of June, that year, he was installed a Knight of the Garter.¹² In 1695 and 1697, he was one of the Lords Justices of England,¹³ whilst the King was abroad: he was also a Governor of the Charter-house:¹⁴ and having resigned the office of Secretary of State in May 1699, he was appointed Lord Chamberlain of the Household the 25th of October following.¹⁵ The last office he resigned in the 1st year of Queen Anne; and then went on his travels for the reinstatement of his health.¹⁶ On his return he was constituted Lord Chamberlain of the Household,¹⁷ 15th April 1710, and sworn of the Privy Council:¹⁸ and on the 29th of April 1712, he was made Lord Lieutenant of the county of Salop.¹⁹ On the 24th of November 1712, he was ap-

¹ Cunningham's Hist. V. I. p. 83. ² Burnet's Hist. V. I. pp. 763, 766, 780, 793, 795, 801, 820. ³ Lodge's Peerage. ⁴ Burnet, V. II. p. 3. ⁵ ⁶ ⁷ ⁸ Lodge's Peerage, V. I. p. 350, and 351. ⁹ Burnet, V. II. p. 45. ¹⁰ Ib. p. 123. ¹¹ ¹² ¹³ ¹⁴ ¹⁵ ¹⁶ Lodge's Peerage. ¹⁷ Burnet, V. II. p. 546. ¹⁸ ¹⁹ Lodge's Peerage.

pointed

pointed Ambassador to the Court of France;¹ and went to that Court in December:² but in the articles of commerce, of which he was then treating, pursuing strenuously the interests of his country, he received some marks of coldness from the French, which led him to solicit his return; and he had his audience of leave on the 17th of August 1713.³ He attended the Queen at Windsor the 4th of September; and nine days afterwards was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.⁴ He opened the Parliament at Dublin, the 25th of November,⁵ and continued there till June following;⁶ and on the 30th of July 1714, the Queen, on her death-bed, made him Lord Treasurer of Great Britain:⁷ so that, at her death, he had the three great offices of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain, and Lord Chamberlain of the Household; which never before had been held together by any one person. He was one of the Lords appointed by King George the First to govern the nation till his arrival from Hanover:⁸ and on the 26th of September 1714, he was made Groom of the Stole, and Lord Privy Purse.⁹ The 1st of October he was sworn of the Privy Council; constituted Lieutenant of the county of Worcester; declared, the 17th, Lord Chamberlain of the Household:¹⁰ and the 8th of March 171⁴/₅, he had a grant of a yearly pension of 3000l. during the King's life;¹¹ and afterwards, on the 4th of July 1715, resigned his Chamberlain's staff.¹² He died the 1st of February 1717, without issue,¹³ and the titles of Duke and Marquis ceased with him. "He seemed" says Burnet,¹⁴ "to be a man of great probity, and to have a high sense of honour. He had no ordinary measure of learning: a correct judgement, with a sweetness of temper that charmed all who knew him." His lady, Adelhida, was descended, by her mother, from Robert

¹ Lodge's Peerage.² Burnet, V. II. p. 613.

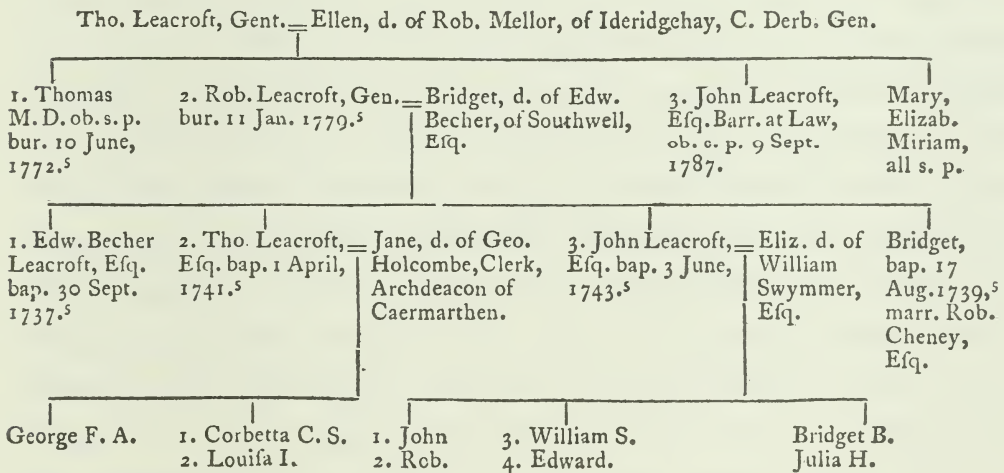
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 Lodge's Peerage.

¹⁴ Burnet, V. I. p. 763.

Dudley, son of Robert Earl of Leicester, the favourite of Queen Elizabeth. She was Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Caroline, when Princess of Wales; and died the 23d of June 1726.¹

The Duke had a younger brother, John, who was killed the 2d of February 1685, in a duel with Henry Duke of Grafton.²

His Grace of Shrewsbury, by indentures of lease and release, dated 15 and 16 February 1709,³ conveyed five sixth parts of his third part of this manor and estate, to Thomas Leacroft, of Wirksworth, Com. Derb. Gent. for 2504l. 4s. od. then paid, and 2504l. 4s. od. to be paid the 13th of February 1710. Mr. Leacroft left the estate equally between his two younger sons, Robert and John.⁴



Mr. Robert Leacroft left his share, by will, to his two younger sons, Thomas and John, in equal shares: so that each of them is now entitled

¹ Lodge's Peerage.

² Ib. V. I. p. 349.

³ Ex autog. penes Joannem Leacroft ar.

⁴ Ex relat. Edw. B. Leacroft ar.

⁵ At Wirksworth.

to a moiety of a moiety of five sixths of one third part (i. e. $\frac{5}{72}$) of the manor or lordship of South Winfield.¹

John Leacroft, third son of the first Thomas, dying without issue, his share descended to my very worthy friend, Edward Becher Leacroft, (eldest son of his brother Robert) as heir at law; who is now entitled to a moiety of five sixth parts of one third part (i. e. $\frac{5}{72}$) of the manor or lordship of South Winfield.² One sixth part of a third part was purchased by the ancestor of Winfield Halton, Esq. about the same time, from the Duke of Shrewsbury; of which share, Mr. Halton is now the owner.³

Thomas Earl of Arundel, who married Alatheia, the youngest of the three daughters of Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, and had in her right a third part of this manor, was grandson of Thomas Duke of Norfolk, who was beheaded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, (2 June, 1572) for his design to marry the Queen of Scots,⁴ and son of Philip Earl of Arundel; who, from the year 1584 to the time of his death, (19 November, 1595) was a prisoner in the Tower; having been condemned to die, partly for religion, and partly upon a surmise of favouring the Spaniards;⁵ but who was by a truly characteristick stroke of Elizabethan clemency, pardoned his life, that he might linger it out in prison. Earl Thomas was restored in blood in the 1st year of King James the First, and had the office of Earl Marshal of England, as it had been enjoyed by his ancestors. He was Knight of the Garter, and a Member of the Privy Council, and Lord Steward of the Household. He was also appointed Chief Justice of the forests north of Trent, by Charles the First; and was General of the Army, in the first

^{1 2} Ex relat. Edw. B. Leacroft ar.

³ Ex autog. penes Rev. Lanc. Greenthwait Halton,

Cler.

^{4 5} Collins's Peerage, Edit. 1735, V. I. p. 14, 15, and 16.

expedition into Scotland, A°. 1638; and sat as Lord High Steward of England at the trial of the Earl of Strafford. He was created Earl of Norfolk, 6 June, 20. Car. I. and died at Padua, 14 Sept. 1646, anno æt. 61.¹

The Earl of Arundel, “in his own right and quality,” says Lord Clarendon,² “preceded the rest of the Council” of King Charles the First. “He was generally thought to be a proud man, who lived always *within* himself, and *to* himself; conversing little with any who were in common conversation: so that he seemed to live, as it were, in another nation; his house being a place to which all people resorted, who resorted to no other place. He resorted sometimes to the Court, because *there only* was a greater man than himself; and went thither the seldomer, because *there was* a greater man than himself. He lived towards all favourites, and great officers, without any kind of condescension; and rather suffered himself to be ill treated by their power and authority, (for he was often in disgrace, and once or twice prisoner in the Tower) than to descend in making any application to them. And upon these occasions he spent a great interval of his time, in several journies into foreign parts; and, with his wife and family, had lived some years in Italy; the humour and manners of which nation, he seemed most to like and approve, and affected to imitate. He had a good fortune by descent, and a much greater from his wife; but his expences were without any measure, and always exceeded very much his revenue. He was willing to be thought a scholar, and to understand the most mysterious parts of antiquity, because he

¹ Collins's Peerage, Edit. 1735, V. I. p. 14, 15, and 16.

² Hist. of the Rebellion, V. I.

“ made a wonderful and costly purchase of excellent statues, whilst he was
 “ in Italy and in Rome ; (some whereof he could never obtain permission
 “ to remove from Rome, though he had paid for them) and had a rare
 “ collection of the most curious medals. As to all parts of learning, he
 “ was almost illiterate, and thought no other part of history so considerable
 “ as what related to his own family : in which, no doubt, there had been
 “ some very memorable persons. It cannot be denied, that he had in his
 “ person, in his aspect, and countenance, the appearance of a great man ;
 “ which he preserved in his gait and motion. He wore, and affected, a
 “ habit very different from that of the time ; such as men had only beheld
 “ in pictures of the most considerable men : all which, drew the eyes of
 “ *most*, and the reverence of *many*, towards him ; as the image and repre-
 “ sentative of the primitive Nobility, and native gravity of the Nobles,
 “ when they had been most venerable. But this was only his outside :
 “ his nature and true humour, being much disposed to levity and delights,
 “ which indeed were very despicable and childish. He was rather thought
 “ not to be much concerned for religion, than to incline to this, or that
 “ party, of any : and had little other affection for the nation, or the
 “ kingdom, than as he had a great share in it ; in which, like the great
 “ Leviathan, he might sport himself : from which he withdrew, as soon
 “ as he discerned the repose thereof was like to be disturbed ; and died
 “ in Italy, under the same doubtful character of religion, in which he
 “ lived.”

The noble collection of ancient marbles made by this Earl, reluctantly
 as it is complimented by Lord Clarendon, and from whatever motive the
 collection was made, (even supposing it merely from ostentation) is a most
 valuable

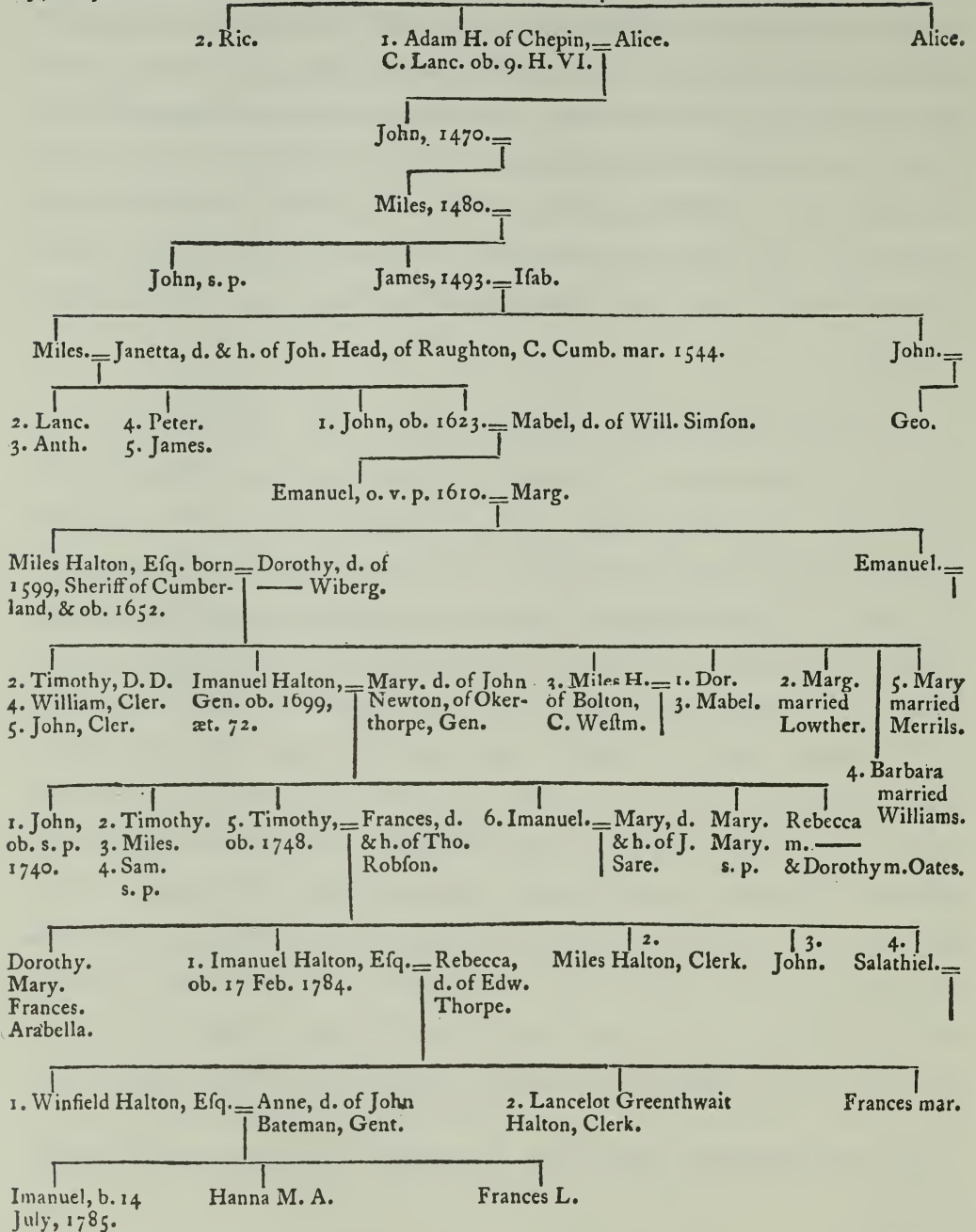
valuable acquisition to the lovers of antiquity, and deserves a better testimony of gratitude to the Earl's memory, than that which it has received from the noble historian. The marbles were taken out of the ruins of the ancient cities of Asia, Greece, and Italy; and in 1627 deposited in the gardens of Arundel House, London: and such of them as survived the rapacity of the troublesome times of the usurpation in the last century, being about 130, (little more than half the number originally brought to Arundel House) were given by his grandson, Henry, to the University of Oxford.¹

The third part of Lady Alatheia Talbot, wife of Thomas Earl of Arundel, in the manor of Winfield, descended to Henry Frederick, Earl of Arundel, their second (but eldest surviving) son and heir. Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, eldest son and heir of Henry, was restored in the 13th of King Charles the Second to the Dukedom of Norfolk; but dying without issue, 1678, was succeeded as Duke of Norfolk, &c. by Henry his brother, (second son of Henry Frederick, Earl of Arundel;) which Henry, Duke of Norfolk, and Jane his second wife, (daughter of Robert Bickerton, Esq.) conveyed the share of the Howards in this estate, on the 28th of May 1678,² to Imanuel Halton, Gent. Thomas Platts, and Michael Williamson; and Winfield, great grandson of Imanuel, is now the owner of that third part of this manor, formerly the property of the Countess of Arundel: so that he is now entitled to one third part, (viz. $\frac{2}{7\frac{1}{2}}$) derived from her; and to one sixth of one third part, before stated to be derived from the Duke of Shrewsbury, (being $\frac{4}{72}$); making together $\frac{2}{7\frac{1}{2}}$.

¹ Bayle's General Dictionary, Vol. VIII. pp. 535, and 536.

² Ex autog. penes A. Wolley.

Will. de Halton, of H. C. Lanc. and Greenthwayte, C. Cumb. = Margery, d. of Ric. de Knott.
1346. 19. E. III.



Ex stemm. penes Rev. L. G. Halton.

Imanuel

Immanuel Halton, the first of the family who resided at Winfield, was the eldest son of Miles Halton, Sheriff of Cumberland, in 1652. He was sometime a Student of Gray's Inn: and afterwards, being employed as Auditor to Henry Duke of Norfolk, he was, through that connection, introduced into Derbyshire; and spent the latter part of his life, which was devoted to musick and the mathematicks, at Winfield manor. In the Appendix to Foster's Mathematical Miscellanies are some pieces of this person; and in the Philosophical Transactions, 1676, is an account of an Eclipse of the Sun, observed by him at Winfield. But the greater part of his manuscripts, through negligence, have unfortunately been destroyed.

In deducing the descent of the manor of Winfield, though I commenced with the paramount or superior Lords, yet, I found it necessary, after having disposed of the Peverells, to take hold of the Lords in *actual possession*, and to follow the clue through them to the present time, in order to avoid a repetition of several inquiries respecting the manor.

William de Peverell, it appears, enfeoffed Robert de Pavelli and his heirs in Winfield and Risley, in Derbyshire, and Piry and Houghton, in Northamptonshire;¹ which feoffment must have been made (unless it were merely confirmatory) before A. D. 1109: for William Peverell confirms² the donation of Robert de Pavelliaco of two parts of the tithe of his demesne of Hocston (Houghton) to the Canons of Lenton; and Gerard, Archbishop of York,³ who was elected to that See in 1101, and continued in it between seven and eight years, witnesses the confirmation.⁴

¹ Thoroton's Nottinghamshire, p. 65. Pat. 1^o. E. III. p. 2. m. 26.

² Mon. Ang. T. I.

p. 646.

³ Godwin's Catalogue of Bishops, p. 577.

⁴ Mon. Ang. T. I. p. 646.

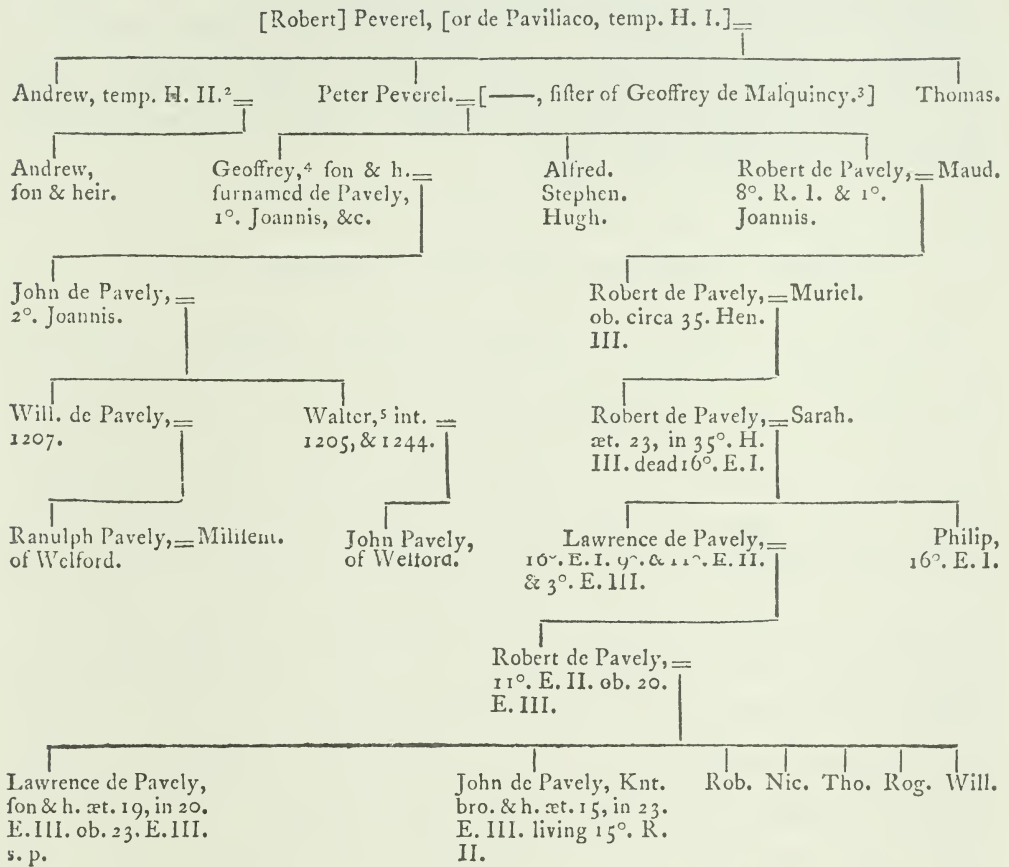
The estate, however, which was derived by Pavely under this feoffment, was only an intermediate feignory between Peverell and Heriz, and between Peverell's representatives and the descendants of Heriz; and sometimes, as in page 19, the manor of Winfield is said to be held of the honour of Peverell, without noticing the tenure under Pavely; and in other instances it is stated to be held of Pavely, without noticing its dependance on the honour of Peverell: as in 27°. E. I. of Lawrence de Pavely, (fee p. 21); in 3°. E. III. of Lawrence Pavly, (p. 23); in 4°. R. II. of John Pavely, Knt. (p. 25); in 15°. R. II. of John Pavely, (p. 28); and in 5°. H. V. of the heirs of John Pawley, (p. 29): after which, I find no evidence of the Pavelies having any thing to do with the manor of Winfield.

The family of Pavely divided into several branches; of one of which, a pedigree is given in the History of Northamptonshire, by Bridges, V. I. p. 597; and of another, there is a pedigree in Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire, p. 65. These pedigrees I have attempted to unite; and the success of the attempt I submit to candid enquiry. I must, however, observe, for the assistance of investigation, that the estate at Rudington in Nottinghamshire, of Geoffrey de Malquincy, the uncle of Geoffrey de Pavely, who was ancestor to the Pavelies of Welford in Northamptonshire, passed to that branch of the Pavelies which was connected with Winfield;¹ and that Thoroton states Geoffrey de Pavelli and Robert, from whom I derive the other line, to be brothers.²

In the 14th of Henry the Third, Robert de Pavelli (son, I presume, of the last named Robert) was in the King's service beyond the seas; being

¹ ² Thoroton's Nottinghamshire, p. 65, and 66.

the time when the King made his voyage into Brittany; and on that account had respite of a suit in the Court of the Sheriff of Nottingham, between him and Richard de Rudington, the other nephew and heir of Geoffrey de Malquincy.¹



King Edward the First, Lord of the honour of Peverell, assigned to Queen Eleanor, his mother, eleven Knights fees of the honour of Peverell;

¹ Thoroton's Nottinghamshire, p. 65, and 66. ² Leland's Itin. V. VI. fo. 53. ^{3 4} Thoroton's Nottinghamshire, p. 417. ⁵ Mon. Ang. T. I. p. 960.

amongst which is the manor of Winfield, being one Knight's fee, and in the tenure of Roger (a mistake for Robert) de Pavelley:¹ by which, however, we are only to understand that the service of Paveley, in respect of the manor of Winfield, was assigned to her, and *not* the real possession.

Robert de Pavely was Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 18. and 19. E. III. and John de Pavely, his son, in 3°. 10°. and 13°. R. II. and died, I presume, without male issue; for his heir female, or one of his heirs female, married into the family of St. John.²

(DESCRIPTION OF THE MANOR, &c.)

THE manor of Winfield, the history of whose possessors occupies the preceding sheets, is situated four or five miles to the eastward of the centre of Derbyshire. The parish of Winfield extends beyond the manor; and includes part of the manor of Lea, and the whole manors of Ufton and Okerthorpe; in the latter of which stands the parish church, though it bears the name of Winfield church. The parish is bounded by the parishes of Pentridge and Alfreton, on the east; by the parishes of Shirland and Crich, on the north; by the parish of Crich on the west; and by the parishes of Duffield and Pentridge on the south; and contains between 2800 and 2900 acres of land; of which there are about 30 acres of wood-land, and the residue is almost equally divided into arable, meadow, and pasture; the annual value of which, is on an average 15s. per acre to farm. Of the above quantity the manor of Winfield is 2000 acres, and was let in 1684 at about 250l. per year;³ and it's value at different antecedent

¹ Ex autog. pen. T. B.
Rev. L. G. Halton.

² Collins's Peerage, Edit. 1735, V. IV. p. 63.

³ Rental. pen.
periods,

periods, which may enable us to form a tolerably correct idea of the progressive decrease in the value of money, will be found in several inquiries already stated.

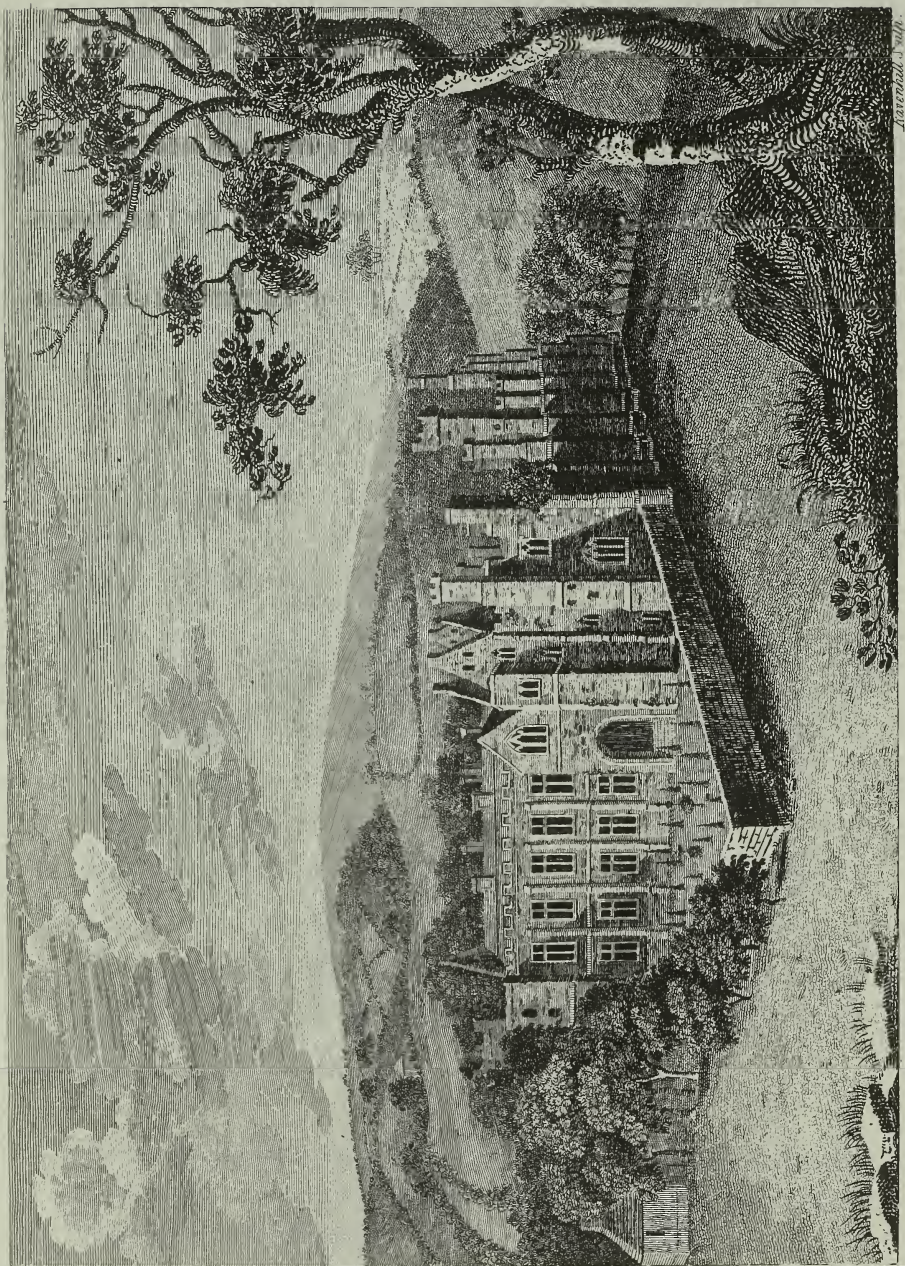
The Lords of Winfield had two parks; the greater of which, according to a survey in 1655,¹ contained 889 acres, exclusive of near 100 acres extending into Pentridge: and the lesser park, part of which extended into Okerthorpe, appears by the same survey to have contained 177 acres; on the border of which, nearest to Okerthorpe, are a moat, and other vestigia of an ancient mansion, said, by tradition, to have been called Bakewell Hall. These parks are now disparked, and divided into farms. Within the manor of Winfield there has not hitherto been any discovery either of coals or limestone; but the hard coal of Alfreton, and the limestone of Crich, adjoining parishes, are of good qualities, and sold on moderate terms: the former having the expence of 2 or 3 miles carriage to add to 5 s. per ton; and the latter having the expence of about 3 miles carriage to add to 4 s. per ton. There is a great quantity of soft coal in the Lordships of Okerthorpe and Ufton: and there are marks of ironstone having been run in the great park at Winfield, which, it is presumed, must have been effected by blast furnaces; but it is uncertain whether there be any quantity of ironstone remaining ungotten. The parish is intersected by three turnpike roads: one from Derby to Chesterfield; another from Nottingham, to communicate with the Derby and Manchester road at Newhaven; and a third from Alfreton to Ashburne: these roads are all in tolerable repair; but the publick roads, not turnpike, are all in summer bad, and in winter nearly impassable. The Amber, a small rivulet, runs through the parish, and is

¹ Ex autog. nup. pen. Joannem Reynolds, de Plaistow, C. Derb. Gen.

here fed by several trifling streams ; one of which, called Cockburn, serves a lately erected mill for roving cotton ; and the Amber serves two corn mills. There is also a small corn mill turned by a stream running nearly under the walls of the manor-house : but none of these works can command a power of water to make them of much consequence. The canal lately made from Cromford to join the Erewash canal, passes through the south part of the manor of Winfield ; but there is no place through which the canal is cut, to which it can be of less service than to Winfield, as the two heavy articles of greatest consequence, coals and lime, are, without the assistance of the navigation, near at hand.

In 1585, and six succeeding years, there were thirty-four baptisms, twenty-four burials, and two marriages, in the parish. In the seven years ending the 31st of December 1792, there were an hundred and fifty-eight baptisms, eighty-six burials, and forty marriages. And the number of inhabitants, of all ages, in the whole parish, is at this time seven hundred and sixty-nine,* in which number are two hundred and seventy-four persons under fourteen years of age. There are ninety-four stocking frames employed : and the greater part of the inhabitants, not engaged in framework knitting, are employed—those of maturer years, in agriculture—the younger part, and of the lowest order, in the cotton mill. The number of houses in the parish is an hundred and sixty-five. The commons and waste grounds of Winfield were enclosed under an Act of Parliament in 1786.

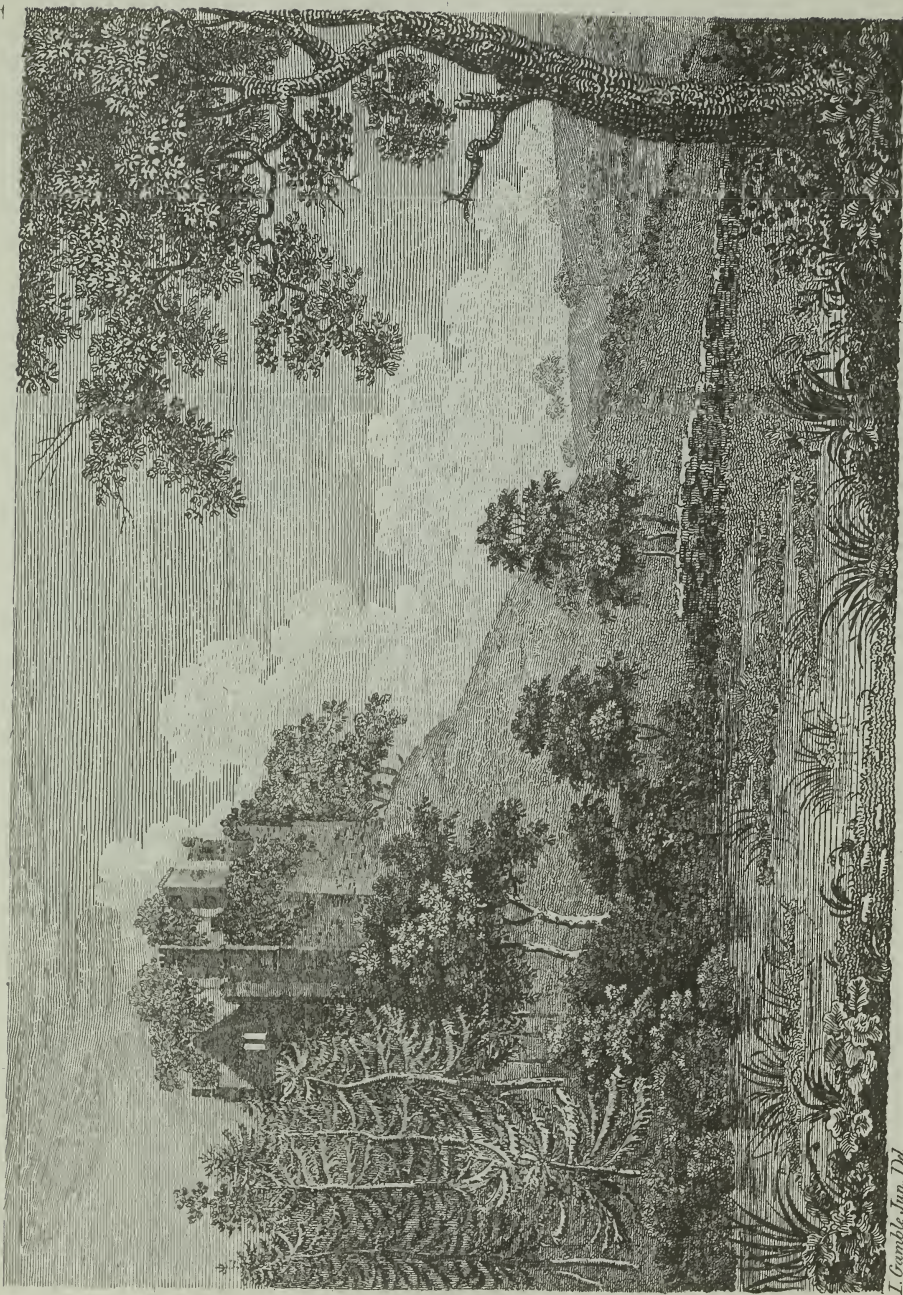
* These facts, which are evidences of an encrease of inhabitants by no means peculiar to Winfield, or it's neighbourhood, form, I am persuaded, a substantial answer to the observations of gloomy calculators on the subject of population.



J. Nichol del.

North-West View of Winfield's Manor
From an old Painting

Published 24th Oct. 1833, by J. Nichol, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.



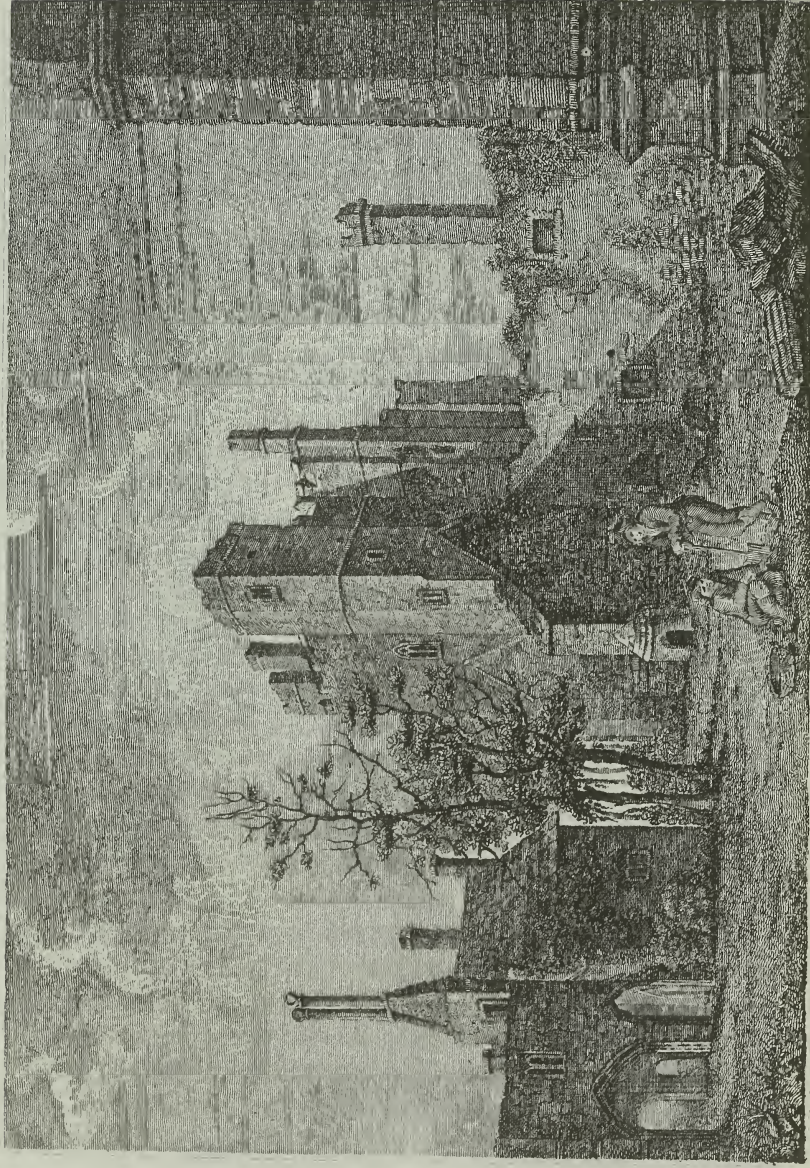
North West View of Winfield's Manor.

Published 4th October 1793, by J. Nichols, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.

Ravenhill Sulp.

North Side of the Quadrangle of Winfield Manor.

Twolishä 4th Oct. 1793. by T. Nichols Red Lion in age. Fleet Street.



Scambla jun' 21

R W Bogue & Co

*View of the Great Tower & Co. of Winfield & Harrow,
from their North Court.*

Published 6th October 1793, by J. Nishol, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, London.

(MANOR - HOUSE.)

THE early mansion of the Lords of Winfield (unless it were at the place already mentioned, called Bakewell Hall) there is some reason to believe, from the authority given to John de Heriz¹ to have divine service in the chapel at Linbery or Linbury, (saving the right of the mother church at Winfield) was near to the Peacock Inn, on the turnpike road between Derby and Chesterfield, occupied by Mr. Jonathan Kendal: for the scite of the chapel of Linbury is said to adjoin to the Peacock Inn; and the scite of Ufton Hall, which was unquestionably one of the manor-houses of the Lords of Winfield, is within an hundred paces of the Inn. Ufton is undoubtedly on the Roman road, leading from Little Chester, near Derby, towards Chesterfield; but I think it has no pretensions to have been a Roman station,² whatever antiquity the name of Linbury may import: for as the distance of Ufton from Little Chester, pursuing the line of the Roman road where it can be traced, and where it cannot be traced, making reasonable allowance for deviations from a rectilinear direction, is very little more than twelve miles; and as the station mentioned by Richard of Cirencester is at the distance of sixteen miles from Derventio, or Little Chester, the station must be carried forward to Higham, or perhaps still farther to Stretton; the latter being not four miles, and Higham but two miles from Ufton: though the Peverell road, mentioned by Dr. Pegge³ as leading from Bolsover to South Winfield, and the name of which he conceives to be sufficient authority for the conclusion that William Peverell built the castle of Bolsover, might, perhaps, had he given it greater an-

¹ See p. 19. ² See Pegge on the Roman Roads, p. 8.

³ See Pegge's Hist. of Bolsover and Peak Castles, p. 3.

tiquity than the name of Peverell carries, have assisted to fix a Roman station at Linbury or Ufton.

Thus much for the ancient manor-house of the Lords of South Winfield. I come now to notice the present manor-house; which, according to Camden, was built by Ralph Lord Cromwell in the time of King Henry VI.¹ This Lord Cromwell, I have already observed, was Treasurer of England; and the testimony of Camden, that he erected the present manor-house, is strongly corroborated by the bags, or purses of stone, (alluding to the office of Treasurer, which he filled) carved over the gateway leading into the quadrangle. For bags, or purses, are mentioned to have been carved on the manor-house of Coly Weston in Northamptonshire, augmented by this Lord Cromwell:² and there were also similar ornaments carved in wood, removed about a century ago from Winfield manor to the house of one Haslam, in Crich, the adjoining Lordship.³

Leland, who wrote in the time of Henry the Eighth, speaking of this place, says, “Winfeld, or Wenfeld, in Darbyshire, is but a maner place, “but yt far passeth Sheffield Castel.”⁴

What the building was in it's original state, a more perfect idea may be formed from the view of it, No. I. taken from an old painting, the property of Winfield Halton, Esq.; but this being a bird's-eye view, I had the view No. II. taken, to shew it's actual appearance on the same side, and to give an idea of it's elevation above the valley. It's situation, though the neighbourhood of Winfield has not those romantick features

¹ Camden's Britannia—Derbyshire.

² Leland's Itin. V. I. fo. 25, and V. VI. fo. 31.

³ Ex autog. penes T. B.

⁴ Itin. V. V. fo. 94.

by which Derbyshire landscapes are generally distinguished, is bold and majestick, with the advantage of beautiful prospects, in almost every direction. The distant approach to it from the north, when assisted by a sun nearly sunk into the horizon, has a most affecting air of grandeur. Here imagination eagerly plunges into the fascinating scenes of antiquity, and the mental eye gazes in rapture on the splendid and hospitable revels of the days of Chivalry :

“ Where throngs of Knights and Barons bold
 “ In weeds of peace high triumphs hold,
 “ With store of ladies, whose bright eyes
 “ Rain influence, and judge the prize
 “ Of wit, and arms; while both contend
 “ To win her grace, whom all commend.”

MILTON'S L'ALLEGRO.

A nearer approach calls us back to contemplate the sad devastations of time. We see walls which erst have reared their heads in proud defiance of the tempest, spread in disorder and confusion; and here

“ ————— the pilgrim oft’
 “ At dead of night, ’mid his oraison, hears
 “ Aghast the voice of Time, disparting towers,”

DYER'S RUINS OF ROME.

which sternly awed the turbulent spirits of the people of barbarous ages.

The building consists of two square courts; one of which, to the north, has been built on all sides, and the fourth side of it forms the north side of the fourth court, which has also ranges of buildings on the east and west sides, and on part of the south. The latter court seems principally to have consisted

consisted of offices. The first entrance is under an arched gateway on the east side of the south court. The arch of this gateway, being a semicircle, I presume, must have been erected subsequent to the rest of the building. From hence the communication with the inner court is under an arched gateway in the middle of the north side of the south court. The appearance of the building, a few paces to the right-hand of the entrance into the north court, the view No. III. will give a better idea of, than any language I can command. One half of this range of building seems originally to have been used as an hall, which received light through a beautiful octagon window, and through a range of gothick windows to the south, now broken away, (see No. III.) and a correspondent range to the north, altered, as in the view No. I. into two ranges. This part of the house, subsequent to it's first erection, was divided and subdivided into several apartments, which have suffered the same fate as the noble hall, whose magnificence their erection destroyed. In the other part of this range are the portal, and the remains of the chapel, and of the great state apartment, lighted through the other rich gothick window, represented in the view No. III. the kitchen, &c. No part of the buildings on the east side of the court (except a low wall) now remains.

The greater part of the building on the south and west sides of the north court, is represented in the view No. IV. Of the range of buildings on the west of this court, only the outer wall, and some broken turrets, survive.

In the reign of Elizabeth, Winfield was, at times, made the place of confinement of Mary Queen of Scots, under the Earl of Shrewsbury. Her suite of apartments, tradition informs us, was on the west side of the north court.

court. This, in the memory of persons now living, was the most beautiful part of the building : it communicated with the great tower ; from whence there is also a tradition, she had, sometimes, an opportunity of seeing the friends approach with whom she held a secret correspondence. And he must have an hard heart, indeed, who could pass it over with cold and thoughtless inattention. It is here the bosom that *can* feel, recalls the memory of a great and unfortunate lady, indulged in her youth in the soft enjoyments of pleasure, and tasting in the succession of years a succession of refinements on misery : and here it surveys the crumbling walls which were once less obdurate to her sighs, than were the hearts of her enemies. It here yields alternately to impressions of sorrow and indignation : and here the Englishman, in despite of the enthusiastick regard for his Sovereign, which “ grows with his growth and strengthens with his strength,” cannot recall the memory of Elizabeth, amidst her parade of mercy and justice, without pronouncing it detested. How different was the situation of Mary here, from that in which once she

“ ————— shone

“ In scepter'd state, in Beauty's highest noon ;

“ When Hymen deck'd his youthful bow'rs,

“ And Fancy, ever new,” awoke “ the laughing hours.”

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, an Ode, by John Sargent, Esq,

Her confinement here, probably commenced in the year 1569 : in which year an attempt was made by Leonard Dacre to liberate her from her confinement at Winfield :¹ after which, Elizabeth becoming suspicious of the Earl of Shrewsbury, under pretence of Shrewsbury's being in an ill state of health, gave directions to the Earl of Huntingdon² to take the

¹ Camden's Eliz. and Lodge's Illust. V. II. p. 22.

² Lodge's Illust. V. II. p. 21, and 22.

care of the Queen of Scots, in Shrewsbury's house: and her train was reduced to thirty persons.¹ The period tradition says she was confined here, is nine years. She was certainly in the custody of the Earl of Shrewsbury from 1568 to 1584; but in that time she was at Buxton, Sheffield, Coventry, Tutbury, and other places, as well as at Winfield: and if her confinement here continued any thing near so great a length of time as nine years, it must have been with many intervals of absence.

It is probable, however, the attempt² made to liberate her, by a Mr. Hall, and the younger sons of the Earl of Derby, and others, were at this place; as George Rolston, Gentleman Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth, who discovered the design, was son of Francis Rolston, Gent. of Lea, a place about four miles from Winfield, and within half a mile of the house of Anthony Babington, at Dethicke; who was afterwards executed for a conspiracy against the life of Queen Elizabeth; to which he was led by his inclination to liberate the Queen of Scots from her confinement.

The manor-house is said³ to have first suffered from an attack of the Parliament army, in the time of Charles the First. When, however, we consider that the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery (who, as the committee of his brother's widow, was interested in this estate; and who, I have seen by his letters, sometimes resided here) was himself of the

¹ Lodge's Illust. V. II. p. 21, and 22.

² Camden's Eliz.—Lodge's Illust. V. II. p. 51.—The latter work contains many particulars of the private history of the Talbot family, into which the narrow bounds of the present publication do not permit me to enter. I have found the Illustrations of British History, Biography, and Manners, replete with curious anecdote, and interesting information; and I hope my testimony to the merits of Mr. Lodge's labours cannot do them an injury.

³ Topographer, V. I. p. 578. and Pilkington's Derbysh. tit. S. Winfield.

Parliament party, it will appear a more probable presumption that the first violence it sustained was from the Royalists; a party of whom, under the command of William Cavendish, Marquis of Newcastle, in the month of November 1643, "took it," says his Lady,¹ "by storm." After which, the same Lady informs us, that the Marquis appointed Henry Hastings, Lord Loughborough, Commander in Chief of all the Forces in Derbyshire and Leicestershire; and then departed, leaving no visible enemy behind him, in Derbyshire, "save only an inconsiderable party in the town of Derby, "which they" [the Parliamentarians] "had fortified, not worth the labour "to reduce it."

This inconsiderable party was a regiment of foot, raised for the service of the Parliament, under a commission from Robert Earl of Essex, by Sir John Gell, of Hopton, in Derbyshire, Bart. a spirited gentleman, of considerable interest in that county; of which regiment, Thomas Gell, Esq. younger brother of Sir John, a Barrister of the Inner Temple, of extensive practice, Recorder of the borough of Derby, and Representative of that borough in the last Parliament of Charles the First, a person of distinguished courage and abilities, was Lieutenant-Colonel. And, inconsiderable as the Lady Newcastle was disposed to rate this party, her Lord, who was much importuned by Hastings to give it annoyance, left it undisturbed for better reasons than its insignificance.²

Sir John Gell having also raised a regiment of horse for the service of the Parliament, shortly afterwards sent Major Sandars, one of his officers, with the horse to Winfield, where they took prisoners³ two Captains and

¹ Life of the Duke of Newcastle, by his Ducheſs, p. 50.

^{2 3} "A true account of the raising and employing of one foot regiment, under Sir John Gell,
N 2 " from

and several other officers, and soldiers, of Sir John Fitz-Herbert, a Colonel on the part of the King: and in August 1644,¹ Winfield manor was retaken by Sir John Gell, the assault being commenced from Pentridge Common; and Colonel Dalby, then the Governor, was killed during the siege:² after which, on the 23d of June 1646, the Parliament directed the garrison of Winfield to be dismantled.³

The papers of the neighbouring gentry, and the traditions of the inhabitants, about Winfield, intimate it to have been the scene of other more trifling skirmishes. Cannon balls have frequently been found about, and amongst, the ruins of the building. When it was garrisoned for the King, Colonel Roger Molineux⁴ (a younger brother of the house of Teverdale in Nottinghamshire) had for some time the command of the garrison. From this time the building has been much neglected; and it had been fortunate for the admirers of so venerable an edifice, had that negligence been uniform from thence to the present time: but a small part of it having been occupied by the family of Halton, and a partition of the estate taking place, some years ago, under a decree of the Court of Chancery, the mansion was allotted to the late Mr. Halton, who began to build an

“from the beginning of Oct. ann. dom. 1642, untill the middel of February 1643.” Signed “John Gell—Geo. Gresley—Tho. Gell,” (the two latter being Lieutenant-Colonels to Sir John). MS. penes Ph. Gell, de Hopton ar.

¹ “A perfect Table of 343 Victories obtained since the King’s Attempt to enter into Hull, at the Beginning of these Wars. July 26, 1642, to Sept. 14, 1646. By their Excellencies the Earl of Essex and Sir Thomas Fairfax, Captains Generals of the Parliament’s Forces. Printed for William Ley.” With engraved heads of those Generals, and cuts in wood of the other Generals of the Parliament army.

² Pilkington’s Derbyshire.
autog. penes T. B.

³ Order “Printed for J. P. in the Old Balie, 1646.”

⁴ Ex

house

house at the foot of the hill near to the manor; and since that time, some of the most beautiful parts of the old building have been pulled down for the sake of the materials.

And here, my Lord, I close the History of the Manor, and Manor-House, of South Winfield; in which, wherever I may have differed in opinion from respectable writers, or wherever I may have noticed an inattention to accuracy in their writings, I persuade myself it will not appear that I have done so on slight grounds, or with a disposition to depreciate the merits of their labours, but from a real regard to the truth of history, and an anxiety to support the purity of it's resources.

It cannot favour much of arrogance, my Lord, if I observe that I here lay before you the result of considerable labour, and of painful research. If there should appear any offensive peculiarities in the stile of my language, the consideration of my being educated to the Law, the formalities of whose written proceedings are apt to cramp that freedom of expression which distinguishes classical elegance, may at least weaken, if it cannot avert, the severity of criticism. I ask for no extraordinary portion of indulgence. Ignorance and incapacity, are but poor apologies for obtruding upon the world a work unworthy of its notice; and unless my labours can screen themselves under a stouter shield, they must perish. I offer the present as a specimen of a manerial History, previous to the publication of the First Part of the History of Derbyshire. It must be observed, that *it is a specimen of the manner only*, and totally unconnected with the typography of the intended publication, which is proposed to be printed in folio.

I should

I should be guilty of unpardonable ingratitude, were I here silently to pass over the very weighty obligations conferred upon me by your Lordship's condescending countenance of my literary undertakings; or the indulgent favours I have received from Thomas Astle, Esq. Keeper of the Records in the Tower of London, in permitting to me a liberal recourse to the most valuable collection of records in this kingdom; or, perhaps, in any nation of the world.

Accept, my Lord, my best thanks for the distinguished honour conferred by your Lordship's name upon this publication. Neither the pecuniary advantages, nor the vanity, of book-making have been my objects. The art of trading in literature will not be suspected to be nicely refined in one unused to tread the mazes leading to success in literary pursuits. I have already explained my reasons for sending these sheets into the world; and, however affected the declaration may appear, I can truly say that I am less anxious for their fate than are many of my friends.

I have the honour to be,

very gratefully, and very faithfully,

October 1, 1793.

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obliged, and

most obedient Servant,

THO. BLORE.

APPENDIX, NOTES, &c.

Nº. I. P. 13. Pedigree.

IN the *Monasticon Angl.* Tom. III. p. 59. are two charters; the one of William Peverell of Nottingham, and the other of Avicia de Lancaſter, his wife: by which charters, the church of Bolſover, Com. Derb. is granted and confirmed to the Canons of Darley juxta Derby. Which William Peverell this was, I cannot affirm; but I preſume he had no iſſue by Avicia de Lancaſter, as, if he had, ſhe would probably have noticed ſuch iſſue in her charter.

Nº. II. P. 16, and p. 18. Donations of Winfield Church to Darley Abbey.

From the charter of Henry del Luy, inſerted in *Mon. Ang.* Tom. III. p. 59. whereby he grants Ulkerthorpe (Okerthorpe) as an appurtenant to Pentridge, to the Canons of Darley; and from the donation of Pentriz, (Pentridge) in the ſame Volume, p. 58. by Ralph Fitz-Stephen, the King's Chamberlain, to the Canons of Darley; I conclude that the grant of the church of Winfield, by Ralph Fitz-Stephen, to the ſame Canons, (inſerted in the laſt mentioned page) was merely of *ſuch right as Ralph Fitz-Stephen had therein, as being Lord of the Manor of Okerthorpe.*

Nº. III. Pp. 22, 23, &c.

The following extract from Bridges's *Hiſtory of Northamptonſhire*, V. II. p. 277. ſeems to relate to a family connected with Winfield. “John le Breton, ſon of John le Breton, died in the 34th of the ſame reign, [Edw. I.] leaving his poſſeſſions here [Blatherwick] to John le Breton, his ſucceſſor and ſon.”—“This John died under age, and was ſucceeded by his ſiſter, Maud, the wife of Richard de la River. In the 5th of Edw. III. Thomas de la Rivers levied a fine of this manor in Blatherwick. This gentleman appeareth to have left it to *Richard de la Ryvere*, his brother, who having no male iſſue, was ſucceeded by *Margaret, his daughter*. She died in the 49th of Edw. III. *under age*, and in ward to the King; and had Sarah, wife to John Garlek, and ſiſter of Richard de la Ryvere, and Margaret, the daughter of Margaret Garlek, the wife of Robert de Swillington, her heirs and ſucceſſors.” This account is ſo confuſed, that I muſt confeſs I cannot underſtand it: but I thought it right here to ſtate it, that it may be ſeen the conſideration of it has not been neglected: and I may obſerve that, *from the proofs cited in Bridges*, it appears to be in ſome degree erroneous.

Nº. IV. P. 40.

“ Wynfeld & } Compotus Joh’is Statham Rec. Denar’ nobilis D’ni Joh’is Comit’ Salop. ib’m a
Criche Recta. } festo Mich’is anno r. R. Henrici sexti post Conq’m xxxvto. usq, id’m f’m Mich’is
anno p’d’ci Regis xxxviiº. Videl’t p. unum annu. integm.

Arr’g. Null’ quia primus compotus huj’. D’nij.
&c. &c. &c.

Soluc’ones p. } Et in denar. solut. Will’mo Orme de Derb. p. assign. d’ci Comit’ Salop de p,te
assign. Domini } XI*li* p Cma. bident. empt. in patria ib’m ad Hospiciu’ D’ni Regis mandato d’ci
Comit’is. } Comit’is oretens. in sept. Pent. infra tempus compo’i ac p. l’ram ejusd’m Comit’is
ex. p’tē - - - - - XLs.
&c. &c. &c.

Wynfeld. Compotus Ric’i Lev’ton & Rob’i Cowrtenall p’po’itor’ & Joh’is Wodehous ballivi
ib’m a festo Mich’is anno r. R. Henrici sexti post Conq’m xxxvto. usq, id’m f’m
Mich’is anno p’d’ci Regis xxxvijº. videl’t p. unu. annu. integrum.

Arr’g. Null. quia primus compotus d’ni Comit’ Salop nunc possessoris Dnij ib’m,” &c.

Receipts. Then comes an account of rents of Affise, amounting to 18l. 5s. 6d.
The farm of two mills, one on the Amber, the other under the manor, 43s. 4d.
Issues of the manor, 15l. 19s. whereof the Bailiff answered 7l. and the Parker
8l. 19s.
Foreign receipts, 103s. 7d.
Perquisites of Court, nothing, by default of the Steward.

Payments. Defects of farm, because the mills were some time in the Lord’s hands, &c.
27s. 8d.
For the expences of seven men residing in the manor six weeks, for it’s safe
custody, by the command of the Earl of Shrewsbury, 48s. 7d.
Repairs of the manor and fences, 18s. 1d. $\frac{1}{2}$
The stipend of Nicholas Duddesbury, for his servant Robert Horne, for plaistering,
roofing, and mortaring, (i. e. pointing the decayed parts of the walls) 50 days, he
eating at his own table, 16s. 8d.

A person

A perfon for affifting Horne 27 days, he eating at the Lord's table, 5s. 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$

The board of the laft perfon 5 weeks, 4s. 2d.

The board of Robert Horne 15 weeks, 12s. 6d.

Robert Barley, Steward of the Courts, for holding Courts, &c. 14s. 1d.

The board of John Plumer and his fervants, repairing "Goteres" and other defects in the manor, 20d. being amongst them 14 days.

Three quarters of a year's wages to the Parker, 62s. 9d.

Repairing the park pales, 11s. 4d. &c. &c. &c.

And the total value this year, including 200 cart loads of hay, valued at 24l. was 54l. 18s. 3d. beyond the outgoings.

Nº. V. P. 55. Note.

Ex. Bundell. Inquis. de an. 33. Eliz. Nº. 106. pars secunda.

13º. Apr. 33º. Eliz.

Georgius Comes Salop. obiit xvijº. die Novembris ultimº et Gilbertus Comes Salop. est fil. et hæ. et est ætat. xxxvij. ann.

COM. DERB.

CCHESTERFIELD, SCARSDALE. M. cu. Wapentag. five Hundred. de *Scarsdale* cu. p. tin. tenent' de Dnia Regina in Capite p. s'vic. un. feod. milit. et val. p. ann. *XXLi*.

BBOLSOVER. CCastr. cu. p. tin.

BBOLSOVER, SOUTH WINFIELD, SHIRLAND, CRICHE, HIGHAM, STRETTON, MIDDLETON, EYAM, ET BAMFORD. M. ac. 10,000 acr. terr. 10,000 acr. prati, 10,000 acr. pastur. ac 10,000 acr. bosci cu. p. tin.

BRAMPTON, NORMANTON, TOTLEY ET LITCHURCH. M. cu. p. tin.

CCHESTERFIELD, CAWSHALL, HASELWOOD, BEAUREP. GLEDLEYES, EKINGTON, WORKESWORTH, WHEATCROFT, PLEASTOW, TANNISLEY, WASHINGTON, RYLEY, HAUGHTON, DUGMANTON, NORTON, NORTHEDGE, STAVELEY, WOODTHORPE, DENBY, LEEY, BOYTHELOW, FOXLOWE, GOTEHOWSE, HEFIELD, WARDLOWE, HEGEHOWSE, HETHECOTE, MIDDLETON ET

O

CALTON.

CALTON. Div, s. terr. et ten. cu. p.tin. tenent' de quo aut p. qu. s'vic. Jur. ign. Et val. p. ann. *C*l*i*.

GLOSSOPP ET GLOSSOPPDAL. M. et R'cor' cu. p.tin.

COM. STAFF.

ALVETON. M. cu. p.tin.

HOMES ET CHEDELE. M. et D. cu. p.tin.

ACTON-REYNOLD. M. cu. p.tin.

COM. SALOP.

WORKWARDEN, AL'S ROKERDEN, CHESWARDEN, TASLEY ET HALTON. M. cu. p.tin.

SHEFFNALL, IDSALL-PRIOR, LE HAUGHTON, SUTTON MADOCK, CORPEHAM, ET COLLINGTON. M. ac terr. et ten. cu. p.tin.

RADFORD. Decim. cu. p.tin.

COM. OXON.

BAINTON. M. et Hundred cu. p.tin.

COM. WILT.

ASHTON, CLIFTON, STOKE-VERDON, AL'S STOKESWARDON, ET WILLESFORD. M. cu. p.tin.

COM. LEIC.

BITTESBY. M. cu. p.tin.

COM. EBOR.

HANNESWORTH, HEIFEILD, ET BOLSTERSTONE. M. cu. p.tin.

ROTHERAM. M. five D. cu. p.tin. cum Colleg. et R'cor. ac Molendin. aquat. g'natic. cu. p.tin.

SHEFFEILD. Castr. cu. p.tin. ac D. et Com. HALLOMSHIRE cu. p.tin.

SHEFFEILD, COWLEY, KUMBERWORTH, WADESLEY, WORRALL, WHISTON, TRETON ET ORGRAVE. M. cu. p.tin.

STUBBES ET WALDEN. iiij p's M. cu. p'tin.

COM.

COM. HEREFORD.

GOODRICH. Castr. cum pertin.

IRCHENFEILD. M. et Hundred. cu. p.tin.

FLAMFORD, ECCLESWALL, CHAPPELL, ET CREDENHILL. M. cu. p.tin.

COM. GLOCEST.

LONGHOPE, HUNTLEY, LEIGH, ET WESTBURY. M. cu. p.tin.

WARNELOW. Hundred. cu. p.tin.

COM. NOTT.

WORKESOPE ET RADFORD. M. cu. p.tin.

EAST-M'KHAM, WEST-M'KHAM, LOWDAM, WHEATLEY, ET HARWORTH. R'cor. cu. decim.

EKARINGE. R'cor. cu. A. E.

LANDFORD. M. terr. et ten. cu. pertin.

LONDON.

COLDHERBERT. Unu. capital. Mefs. vocat. Coldherbert.

COM. MIDDLESEX.

CHELSEY. Unu. capital. Mefs. cu. pertin.

Cum diversis aliis terris et tenementis in diversis aliis locis.

Nº. VI. P. 58.

Henry Talbot left *three* daughters his coheirs; viz. Elizabeth, Gertrude, and Mary; [Efc. 39. Eliz. pars 1. n. 15.] but the eldest died an infant; and Mary, who married to Sir William Airmine, Bart. dying without issue, his whole inheritance came into the family of Pierpont, through the marriage of Gertrude, his second daughter, to Robert first Earl of Kingston.

Nº. VII. Pp. 67, 68, and 69.

To the account given of George Savile, Marquis of Halifax, it is but justice to add the following anecdote ; as it shews the true disposition of the man, more clearly than every thing beside that hath been said respecting him.

Reresby conducted a gentleman to Lord Halifax to ask his pardon for some things he had been reported to have said against his Lordship. “ Sir,” said Lord Halifax to the gentleman, when he had received his apology, “ if you did not say the words, I am very glad of it ; and even if you did, I am glad you find cause to be of another mind.” A disposition so conciliating must have many friends, and could not deserve an enemy.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

P. 4. l. 3. note—*for* int. 16°. & 20°. *read* int. 16^m. & 20^m.

P. 55. l. 3.—*for* (1570) *read* (1590).

P. 56. l. 6. note—*alter the full point to a comma.*

P. 67. l. 6.—*for* sister *read* daughter.

In the Genealogy of Heriz, &c. Roger Bellers is called Sheriff of Lincolnshire, 40. H. III. which is a mistake for 40. H. III.—and in the Genealogy of Talbot, &c. the names of the armorial bearings are omitted on the plate by an oversight of the Engraver.—They are, 1. Talbot—2. Herbert—3. Grey; in which the three Torteauxes in chief are erroneously made Annulets—4. Howard—5. Savile—6. Bruce—7. Boyle—8. Tufton.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE PLATES.

Plate of Seals, to face p. 20.

Pedigree of Heriz, &c. to face p. 37.

Pedigree of Talbot, &c. to face p. 40.

The four Views to be put together between pp. 84 and 85, facing p. 85.

MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES,
(IN CONTINUATION OF
BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA BRITANNICA,)
N° IV.
CONTAINING
THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
S H E N S T O N E.

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T H E
H I S T O R Y
A N D
A N T I Q U I T I E S
O F
S H E N S T O N E,
In the C O U N T Y of S T A F F O R D,
I L L U S T R A T E D.

TOGETHER WITH

The P E D I G R E E S of all the F A M I L I E S and G E N T R Y,
both antient and modern, of that Parish.

By the late Rev. H E N R Y S A N D E R S, B.A. of O R I E L C O L L E G E,
O X F O R D, and Thirteen Years Curate of S H E N S T O N E.

L O N D O N,
P R I N T E D B Y A N D F O R J. N I C H O L S,
P R I N T E R T O T H E S O C I E T Y O F A N T I Q U A R I E S, 1794.

D

TO THE WORTHY PARISHIONERS OF SHENSTONE,
IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

BE pleased to accept this Dedication of the following History as a small token of my Regard and Esteem. For, although so long a time has elapsed since I was resident at Shenstone, when my father had the care of that extensive and happy Parish, and, notwithstanding the many vicissitudes in Families, so that I may not be remembered by all the present; yet no time or circumstance can obliterate from my mind the kindnesses I received from many, and that friendship I entertained for you in my infant years. You have here, my worthy Friends, presented to you a History of your Forefathers, probably a more lasting monument than was ever erected to the memory of your deceased Relatives.—Accept it as the labour of your faithful Pastor, who loved you, and was, he presumed, beloved by you; accept it, as undertaken by him from pure love to all the Parishioners, and which had been never compleated, through its immensity of labour, perhaps of expence, if he had imagined it would not have proved for the entertainment and benefit of most, and you would not have regarded it. Several of my esteemed Friends among you have been anxiously desirous of possessing this Work; I therefore diligently sought a fit and

convenient opportunity of bringing it forward to public view ; and am much indebted to Mr. NICHOLS, the Friend of learned Antiquaries, for his kind assistance in indulging mine and your wishes.

The study offered to you in the subsequent pages has been of great utility to many families, both of small and considerable property.—Often was the Author employed in tracing the lineage of those who entreated his assistance ; and, it is believed, many were greatly indebted to him for the discovery of their just and lawful inheritance.

That this may be acceptable to you, whether on account of its utility or entertainment, is the sincere wish of

Your faithful Friend,

*Wilderness-Row,
St. John's, Clerkenwell,
London,
March 18, 1794.*

and humble Servant,

JOHN BUTLER SANDERS.

A Short ACCOUNT of the AUTHOR.

SOME account of the Author and his Family, though they were not descended, as far as we can trace, from any illustrious ancestors, may not be unacceptable to, if not required by, the Reader. It is supposed that a religious persecution, or the inconvenient situation of Lorraine in times of war between France and Germany, occasioned a Mr. Titery, of Nantz in that dutchy, a person of piety and respectability, to take refuge in England, to avoid some calamity which awaited him. His daughter, named Anne, was married to Thomas Rogers, of Wales, afterwards an eminent dealer in glass at Holloway Head, near Stourbridge, Worcestershire. Thomas and Anne Rogers had a daughter, Sarah, who was married to Henry Sanders *, of Stourbridge. The issue of this marriage were Thomas Sanders of that town, a very learned and ingenious surgeon and apothecary, much esteemed by the celebrated George lord Lyttelton, as also by a very populous neighbourhood, for his great success in inoculation, his personal character, and his ability in his profession; Sarah, wife of William Grosvenor, of Kidderminster, apothecary; Henry, Anne, Susanna, Daniel, and John. As their father died during the minority of the younger

* A branch of this family has long been seated in Essex.

children,

children, they came under the care of their brother Thomas, who disposed of each as circumstances and opportunities served.

Henry seemed to be rather more favoured than his brothers Daniel and John, being, by education, good abilities, and the particular notice of the family of Rogers, well fitted for a somewhat superior rank in life. Though designed for the cloathing business, his genius and inclination led him to the study of medicine. He was a noted and valuable apothecary and chemist at Dudley in Worcestershire, and was the inventor of a very useful medical composition, which, in that part of the world, is exceedingly admired, and for which receipt a considerable premium was offered by a learned physician. This Henry married Miss Rebecca Hawkes, of a respectable family, the descendants of whose brother live in great credit, and one, if not two of them, in opulence at Dudley. Henry Sanders had, by his wife Rebecca, eleven children living at one time, and at least nine at his decease; the eldest of whom was Henry, the author of the following History.

Their father, with all his care and industry, was unable to provide them any pecuniary advantages worth mentioning, having barely a competency to support himself and daughters in the decline of life. A circumstance particularly favourable, however, attended his three eldest sons, the benefit of a grammar school, which was highly blessed with two succeeding masters; the former a relation, the Reverend Pynsen Wilmott, M. A. afterwards vicar of Hales-Owen, Salop; and the latter the Reverend Benjamin Clements, B. A. afterwards prebendary of the collegiate church, minister of St. John's, and head master of the grammar-school, in Wolverhampton. Henry, having attained an excellent classical education, was well qualified for either of the three learned professions, and the clerical suited more the dis-

disposition of his mind, while the other two decidedly chose the medical. At length a great difficulty arose how he could be supported at the University, even in the most frugal manner, since his father could spare but little from so large a family. A circumstance indeed occurred, which by many persons would have been eagerly embraced. There was a contest between two distinguished houses for the representation of the county in parliament; and it was confidently said, that a nobleman made an offer to farther the education of Henry, and advance him in future life, if his father would consent. Such a friendship might be, perhaps, owing to his lordship's esteem for a near relation; but the father would by no means accept the offer, his interest and regard being entirely devoted to the service of the noble family at Himley. By dint of industry and ability, however, Henry procured an exhibition or clerkship in Oriel College, and was appointed by that society to perform duty in king Edward's Hospital *, a small distance from Oxford, before he was in orders.

By great prudence, many friends, and the favour of the College, he combated every pecuniary difficulty, and took the degree of B. A.; which when he had determined, he left the University, being desirous of encountering no farther trouble in the pursuit of academical degrees. But, although he had abandoned such inconveniences in the University, he had another still to struggle with immediately, and that was how to be admitted into holy orders, notwithstanding all his literary merit. He found it no easy matter to obtain a title, as curacies were at that time scarce, and the then bishop of Worcester treated him rather un-

* A little hospital, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, about half a mile East from Oxford, probably founded by Henry I. and given by Edward III. 1328, to Oriel College, who were to maintain therein a chaplain and eight poor brothers.

Tanner, Not. Mon. p. 421.

graciously ; so that, between his disappointments with the beneficed clergy, his numerous journeys, many expences, and an almost empty purse, the whole story, as he related it, would incline the reader to laugh, though it would be impossible not to lament his situation. Some time after, having received holy orders, he resided upon a curacy at Wednesbury, about four miles distant from his native town, the annual income of which did not exceed 36*l*. Whilst he officiated at that place, a respectable and rather wealthy family attracted his esteem, which soon terminated in his marriage with the eldest daughter, Elizabeth Butler. Happy as the married couple were in themselves, one circumstance thwarted their views. Fortune seemed unpropitious ; for her family was not satisfied with her choice of a husband possessed of such a small income, and they were compelled to support themselves, and afterwards their infant, more than two years, upon 30*l*. stipend, and the vicarage house in an adjoining parish, West Bromwich. It was said, that her marriage was the only circumstance in her life in which she disobliged her father ; but, as some excuse of that deviation in the duty of both, the father at some times consented and at others objected to their marriage. Providence at length, after such a contented struggle with adversity, interposed in their behalf, and they were removed to Shensstone, a place not only delightful in its situation, but abounding with a number of worthy inhabitants. The author was no sooner appointed to this comfortable curacy, than he was invited to be one of the reading and domestic clergymen to Samuel Hill, esq. whose family is copiously treated of in the following pages. In him he not only obtained a friend, but a considerable increase of income, insomuch that the disobliged father abovementioned became so reconciled to his daughter as to settle upon her the portion of a child.

This sunshine of felicity was, nevertheless, soon to be lost in a dark cloud of adversity : he not only lost by death his worthy
bene-

benefactor Mr. Hill, who would in all probability have been his patron; but his amiable wife did not survive her going to Shenstone perhaps more than four years; a lady whose pious life, and glorious death, were the admiration of all the country, especially of those persons who had the happiness of her acquaintance. The evening (Sunday) before she departed, she desired to see her only child, who was not five years old; after giving him some important instructions for his future life, it was her express order, that he should choose no other profession than that of a minister of Christ; that, be his fortune ever so small, he should disregard lucre, care of preferments, &c.; for that *that* employment, properly discharged, was superior to any other in the world. The next morning, about seven o'clock, she spoke in transport of the eternal joys which awaited her, sang an hymn, and instantly expired. Suffice it to say, that her son is of the sacred profession, now resident in London *.

Our author still continued his curacy of Shenstone, in his own words, "loving and beloved by his parishioners," till about the end of thirteen years, when, unhappily for himself, and disagreeably to all his flock, he accepted a station in king Edward the Sixth's school, at Birmingham, with a design to superintend the education of his son, and obtain for him an exhibition to college. Within two years of his leaving the curacy of Shenstone, he was engaged by Humphry Minchin, esq. now member of parliament for Boffiney, as private tutor to his two eldest sons, who, removing to Birmingham for education in that school, represented their former instructor in such a favourable view to the Reverend Mr. Brailsford, head master, that the then vacant place of assistant-teacher to the upper boys proved an allurements, with a curacy, and the idea of superintending his son's education, to

* Curate of St. Alban's, Wood-street; Lecturer of St. Olave's, Old Jewry; and late fellow of Worcester College, Oxford.

withdraw Mr. Sanders from Shenstone. His heart, however, being with his beloved people, and uneasy from the place he so delighted in, he was frequently occupied in preparing the History of the Parish where he had spent the happiest time of his life. Though he afterwards gained a comfortable settlement as master of the free grammar-school at Hales-Owen, Salop, by the favour of George lord Lyttelton, and through the recommendation of some friends, and also the perpetual curacy of Oldbury chapel, to which he was presented by the Reverend Pynson Wilmot; yet no place afforded him consolation like Shenstone; where, though he had it not in his power to end his days, agreeable to his wishes, his will expressly charged, and it has been particularly complied with, that his remains should be deposited in the church where his pastoral duties had been so particularly acceptable.

From the time of his appointment at Hales-Owen, which was in the year 1771, till his decease, which happened in 1785*, few circumstances intervened worth recording. He had laid aside all thoughts of preferment, seemed little anxious about popular esteem, and devoted himself to retirement and study. Having always a passion for learning, he was tolerably conversant in almost every branch of Literature, more especially in Theology, History, and the Classics. Had his abilities met with due encouragement in the early part of life, he would have made a conspicuous character in the learned world. The Reader, however, will be pleased to accept the following work as the production of a grateful mind, and as a token of regard for his parishioners. Nor think it an unprofitable pursuit. The study of antiquity has not been considered beneath the attention of the most enlarged understanding. To this the greatest empires in modern times have been indebted, by making improvements on

* The son was at that time minister of the English church at Gottenburg.

former

former manners, customs, and inventions. View Britain in the zenith of her glory, flourishing in every art and science; what has she not derived from former ages? Surely then it cannot be considered a trifling employment, to develop the histories of ages past, to bring to remembrance our deceased ancestors, and to honour the worthy with a grateful tribute of our esteem.

It is true, our author has paid more attention to a limited part of that study, than to the study of antiquities in general: but, the case is similar in almost every art and profession.

Where is the artist, whether in Sculpture or in Painting, that does not devote his skill to some one branch of the art? Is the same person equally skilful and successful in every thing?

So also in Medicine and Law. Some of their professors are peculiarly excellent in some cases, who suffer their judgement to give place in others. Suffice it, therefore, to esteem merit however limited it may appear.

Upon this ground of reasoning we may fairly decide, that the following pages have their peculiar worth. The History of Shensstone is, doubtless inferior to that of Warwickshire, yet is it on a similar plan; but, so long as England exists, the name and merit of Dugdale will neither be forgotten nor despised. We might present to you examples of the most eminent writers in very antient times, and point out the advantages of their labours. We might recall to mind the celebrated names of those who, a few centuries ago, attached themselves to this study in France. We might enumerate many of this kind in our own country, and of the present age, who have afforded ample testimonies of the value of their literary pursuits*.

* In antient times, Thucydides, Polybius, Livy, Suetonius, Tacitus. In France: History of Provence, by Cæsar Nostradamus; of Languedoc, by Guil. Catel, &c. &c. In our own country, Leland, Camden, Dugdale, Burton, Chauncey, Somner, Drake, Borlase, Hutchins, Haisted, Nash, &c. &c.

But, setting aside the idea of any utility in such pursuits, the human mind has certainly some claim to the indulgence of harmless recreation, and to re-visit the mansions of departed worth. In fact, when the learned mind is directed to a study of this sort, it proves, by being introduced into families, a constant monument of those we knew, and the numbers we esteemed; and this monument may remain when all others are effaced and destroyed through the waste of time. But this is not all: we cannot too much encourage the study of Parochial Antiquities, or the Antiquities of Counties, with respect to its vast utility and importance. How many are deprived of their just inheritance by being unacquainted with their proper lineage! How many large and small estates descend in an unlawful channel, while those who should possess them may be involved in poverty and sorrow! Many were the instances that occurred to our Author, whereby he was enabled to assist the enquirer after little, as well as extensive property; and, now he is removed from the sight of men, he had done, while living, what he could to make his time profitable to survivors. It is believed there were more posthumous works than the present, which would have been serviceable to the publick if transmitted to the press; but, as he had bequeathed one to a noble lord, since deceased, in hopes he would have condescended to have published it, there were together with it carried many, very many manuscripts, which, we fear, are removed beyond the reach of recovery.

The present History of SHENSTONE, drawn up with great care and attention, after a long and painful discharge of the important duties of his sacred office, was, as has been already observed, prepared for the press by the Author during his residence at Birmingham, where he had an inclination to have printed it; and was afterwards from time to time improved during his residence at

Hales

Hales Owen. At the distance of twenty years, it is at length submitted to public inspection as left by Mr. Sanders, except with the addition in a very few places of a date, and occasionally of a supplementary link in the connexion of a pedigree.

The MSS. of Dr. Wilkes and Sir Simon Degge, so frequently quoted in this work, are now in the possession of the Reverend Stebbing Shaw, junior; who is engaged in preparing from them, and other large collections, his intended History of Staffordshire. By the kindness of this gentleman, and of another learned friend, Samuel Pipe Wolferstan, esq. of Statfold (whose local situation and accurate attention to genealogical researches peculiarly qualified him for the task), the reader is presented with a few additional pages, which not only correct some errors of the press, but contribute in a great degree to complete the imperfections of the original MS.

J. B. S.



T H E
H I S T O R Y A N D A N T I Q U I T I E S
O F
S H E N S T O N E.

SHENSTONE, or as it is written in ancient records *Scertestan*, is situated in a pleasant part of the county of Stafford, by all travellers admired as a beautiful and well-watered spot, that part of it especially so named; neither may we wholly except some of its districts, which in some measure deserve notice, as will be evidenced when we treat separately of them. Such a method seems eligible, that this little account may be free as is possible from perplexity, and less obnoxious to censure. Elegance of expression will not be expected in such descriptions; but our aim shall be strictly to adhere to truth, and the best authority we can meet with to revive the history of this parish, and thereby engage, from some persons of leisure, who have better opportunities than my occasions have afforded me, more useful and agreeable observations. Whatever is here offered to the perusal of the Publick arose at first from a love of Antiquity and my private amusement.

Shenstone is usually divided into two great districts, under which the inhabitants in transacting their several concerns are from prescription arranged. These have the appellation of *Shenstone* and *Stonball*. The subdivisions are termed *Shenstone*, *the Moss*, *Wood-end*, *Radley Moor-end*, *Aston*, *Little Haye*, *Footberley*, *Lower or Nether Stonball*, *Upper Stonball*, *Lynne*, *Bosses*, *Tbornes*, *Chesterfield*, *Wall*, *Hilton*, and *Swinfen*. The last of these is not in the parish, though in the constablewick, and a manor subjected to the lord of Shenstone.

Knowing no better reason for it, or any more certain proofs, I have ventured to say, that the two more general divisions of this place are from prescription. These are conjectured to have subsisted from time immemorial, or from the dissolution of the monastic institutions in the violent reign of king Henry VIII. The people to this day have some customs that indicate there were two separate churches and parishes. One churchwarden is always chosen by the Stonhall inhabitants; and though some attempts have been made to break in upon this rule by the minister's chusing his officer from the Stonhall side, yet have these on the other hand steadily preserved their claim by chusing the other officer even out of the opposite part. Overseers of the poor, overseers of the highways, and the constables, are appointed with the same caution, and not less tenaciously. When the bad roads of Shenstone hamlets have been indicted, the other part would pay no proportion. How the late act of parliament may have set the overseers of the high-roads or parish-ways upon the same footing, we cannot say*; but still the usual method is maintained in the choice of them, and in collecting the rates, as it is also in the churchwardens levies. There may, indeed, be offered some reasons why the Stonhall people are obstinate in this respect; this being obvious to every man, that

* It may here be proper to observe, that the present History was compiled in 1769.
I their

their roads must always be in a better condition than the others, arising in some degree from the nature of the soil, which is a light sand, and likewise from having the great road from London to Chester pass by them, as it were, in a corner, and therefore not often out of repair, or, if it happen, have very little to amend, and plenty of materials at hand. But of Shenstone it may be said, though the village itself stands on a sandy and dry situation, yet as the country round is nearly surrounded with water and marshy ground in consequence of it, it must necessarily be more inconvenienced, and the ways repaired at a much heavier charge.

Large as the parish is, and extensive in circuit, it cannot be called populous, there being not more than two hundred and ten houses in it; the people, however, now residing therein (besides what tradition hath delivered to us) shew us in every hamlet where many have fallen, or have been suffered to decay, that the land allotted to them might be conveniently annexed to the adjoining farms.

The bounds of the parish are, Sutton Coldfield, with its park and chace running towards that part of Barr on which stands the famous beacon belonging to Aldrich, part of Walfall wood, near the Shire Oak, Cannoc Wood, Ogley Hay on the edge of it, Muckley, and the high road from Wall towards Chester, part of Wall town, as separated by the same way, called one of the Roman roads, part of St. Michael's belonging to the city of Lichfield, proceeding on still to Swinfen and Sweeford Hill to Sutton park.

Lesser limits, the nearest and most direct way, begin at Cats Hill. From the bank or barrow to Hilton are two miles, to Wall nearly one and a half, to Swinfen the same distance along the Street-way, to Little Hay one mile and a half, thence to Aston three miles, to the extent of the parish lands in Sutton-chace two

miles, back to Aston Mill two miles, to the hand post on Druid-Heath one mile, from this place to Lazy-Hill one mile, to Shire Oak upwards of a mile, and to the barrow at Cats Hill about the same measure. This reckoning by no means takes in the real measure; for the whole, being computed on an exact survey with the account of the outlets on the extremes, was found to be about thirty-one miles in compass, and so delivered in to the present lord by Mr. Thomas Sheriff, of Cleobury Mortimer, a most accurate surveyor. To this we may add a story of a large portion of land upon the common heath, lost by neglect or indiscretion to the parish of Aldrich, which some persons confidently tell us, but with the air and circumstance of a fable. In three several parts the parish is between five and six miles diameter; but running out in different necks of land gives it an irregular form, neither oval nor round.

S H E N S T O N E.

The village of *Shenstone* is first to be treated of, as having the church in its center, and giving name to the whole; also containing many of the other berwicks and seats, as the Park, the Moss, Wood-end, Radley Moor-end, Aston, Fotherly, the Boffes, and Little Haye.

Shenstone stands nearly South of the city of Lichfield, at the distance of three measured miles; six from Tamworth, a good market town; thirteen from Birmingham, seven from Walsall, both large places, thirteen from Wolverhampton, nearly the same from Dudley, a place of note in very early times, famous for a castle built about the year 716; four miles from Sutton Cold-

Coldfield, one of the most delightful villages in this part of the kingdom.

The church is built nearly in the center of the town, on the summit of a hill gradually rising every way in the midst of an extensive vale. This site affords most engaging prospects of Hintz and Weeford hills, Aston hall, Barr beacon, Cannoc wood, Beaufesert, the seat of the Earl of Uxbridge, and the title of his barony, with its fine hanging wood, and that of Gentleshaw, and Stilecop; Hangewich chapel, Lichfield cathedral, St. Michael's lofty spire in that city, the churches of Aldrich and Whittington, Fisherwick, the seat of Arthur earl of Donegal *, the churches of Lullington and Clifton; with various places in Leicestershire. The ascent on which this structure stands is a soft sandy rock of a red cast; and the edifice itself was unquestionably built of a stone got a little mile off of a nature like the mines of Thomas Hill, of Tern in Salop, and of John Dolphyn, of the Moss, esqrs. now or lately worked, in this parish. When first cut out of the rock, it is soft, and easily formed into a proper shape; but, if it be exposed some time to the open air, becomes hard and durable, changing its colour to a whitish brown that looks tolerably handsome. The structure carries with it the face of antiquity, and hath been raised at several times, the body of it being supported with divers stone pillars; the porch to the South is modern, built of brick, and faced with polished stone at the same time with the new chancel; the tower, old as it appears, has been erected long since the church, of the same kind of stone, and of an height proportionable. Seen from the Birmingham and Sutton roads it greatly pleases, seeming to surmount a fine clump of fir trees in an adjoining

* The present marquis of Donegal (1792) is an English peer, by the title of baron Fisherwick.

field,

field, planted on an eminence about a furlong from it. In the steeple are five good bells. Having no records to refer to, it is most difficult to ascertain the reign in which the church was built; but we are convinced that lord Robert D'Oyley found or erected one here soon after the Conquest. The present was probably erected before it came to the Crown, in the reign of Henry VI, by Richard Nevil earl of Warwick and Salisbury, called *Make-king*, who was known to live in great hospitality, and was ready to do acts most bountiful, even unsolicited, and which did not appertain to him. I may be mistaken; but, I judge good part of it must have been erected at least as early as Henry VI. And who was so likely to do it as that great man, who affected to satisfy every one, from a consummate policy and thirst of popularity, especially if requested to do his dependents and homagers such a favour? It is in the hundred of Offlow, and in the deanry of Tamworth. Something might in this place be offered to shew its greater antiquity, supposing the church not to stand due East and West, the East end declining to the North, and the West end Southwards. The compass being generally supposed to be invented before the year 1300, if the architect had really no assistance from it, it will follow that its foundation is prior to that date; yet this is scarcely credible. If the foundation of it was early, most likely all the direction then had was from the sun itself, which rising in summer more or less to the Northward, and in the winter proportionably to the Southward, might cause this and many others to decline from the East and West points, according to the time of the year wherein they were founded. The form of it is that of a cross; but whether it were so at first is hard to say, unless we grant that there was some building resembling that on the South side, called the Stonhall chancel. It is dedicated to *St.*

John

John the Baptist, and consists of a nave, one aisle on the North side, and three chancels; that to the North seems to be of equal date with the church, built of the same kind of stone, and supported with outward works to keep it from giving way, or falling through the injuries of time; that to the South is mostly of brick work, on two sides of which are the form of St. Peter's keys in bricks, burnt hard, of a blue cast, very large, and in the front of it are different figures of crosses of the same colour. The best and principal chancel, and which only is used as such, is an elegant modern structure, built by the late Samuel Hill, esq. of Shensstone Park, in the Venetian taste, at the expence of about four hundred and fifty pounds. The carved stones for capitals in the windows, and those with which the floor is laid, are white, brought from a noted quarry near Bilstone; the others were dug out of that before-mentioned, belonging to Mr. Hill. The beauty and neatness of this building, which indeed appears to advantage from the Lichfield road, much engages the attention of curious travellers, who are observed, not rarely, to stop and examine it, and take the views from the church-yard, which extend to Bardon hills near Leicester, with several parts of Derbyshire.

The advowson of this church being in Robert lord D'Oyley, came to his brother, who left lord Robert D'Oyley his son and heir, founder of Osney abbey, upon an island made by the river Isis near the castle of Oxford, at the earnest request of his wife, on the following occasion, as the monkish writers say. "She, with her gentlewoman, used to walk out of Oxford castle frequently for recreation, when her husband resided there; and several times amusing herself near the river side, saw many pyes gathered together on a great tree, making a great chattering as
if

if they were saying something to her. She, much marveling at the matter, sent for Ralf a canon of St. Frideswide's (now Christ Church college), a man of virtuous life, her confessor, to advise with him; who, observing the manner of their chattering when she came, artfully answered, they were not pyes as she supposed, but so many souls in purgatory, uttering complaints for relief, hoping she would do something for their succour, and the health of hers and her posterity's souls, as her husband's uncle did in building a collegiate church. She promised her best endeavours to bring those wretched souls to rest; and by her importunity with her husband, with the consent of the archbishop of Canterbury*, the bishop of Lincoln†, her sons Henry and Gilbert, prevailed upon him to build a monastery in that place in the year 1129: to settle large endowments upon it, and make Ralf the canon prior of it‡. Among others, the churches of *Senestan* or *Sbeneston*, with all its rights and lands, was given to this abbey of Oseney by the founder by Robert lord D'Oyley, his uncle, which church and lands assuredly were before, viz. 1075, annexed to St. George's collegiate church at Oxford, founded by his uncle, the first baron D'Oyley, and so continued till the founding of Oseney, 1129, when that church with all its revenues, and among the rest these churches, were passed over to it by a special charter§, confirmed by the King; and again by a charter of Henry D'Oyley, son of lord Henry D'Oyley, in the reign of John, or Henry III. with the consent of Robert D'Oyley || his brother, and his freemen who held of his fee, and then confirmed by the king**.

The secular canons of St. George's college at first deputed some of their members to take care of the church, and others

* Theobald. † Alexander. ‡ Leland, Itin. vol. II. pp. 19. 20.
 Mon. Angl. vol II. p. 136. Tanner, Not. Mon. p. 419. § Tanner, ib. 412.
 || Son of King Henry I; brother by the mother to Lord Henry D'Oyley the elder.
 ** Mon. Angl. vol. II. p. 137, 138.

of the lands and farms, as did the regular canons of Ofeney, of the order of St. Augustine, and had, beside the vicarage for the residence of the clergy who were to officiate here, a grange near the church for receiving and storing their corn and fruits. At the Dissolution Henry VIII. kept the lands that appertained to Ofeney in his own hands for three years; and how this place was disposed of is not said, though in all likelihood it continued in the crown till very lately. The great or rectorial tythes were undoubtedly sold by the crown, and seem to have been long in the Brandreth family till purchased in the reign of George I. by the honourable and reverend Richard Hill, by whom they were settled upon his nephew, Samuel Hill, esq. On his decease, by virtue of the entail in 1758, they went to Thomas Hill, of Terne, esq. with the advowson of the living which Samuel Hill, esq. had procured from the crown in exchange, as I have been informed, for the living of Colchester in Essex. Thomas Hill, esq. passed it with the tythes to Samuel Hill, esq. his son and heir; who dying unmarried, Noel Hill, esq. member of parliament for the town of Shrewsbury, his brother and heir, enjoys them.

It may not be a vain conjecture to imagine, that as the earls of Warwick were heirs to the living at the Dissolution, if there had been no attainder after the battle of Barnet in 1471, John Dudley earl of Warwick, descended of that family, might claim it, and, being the greatest subject in England, might enjoy it also till the reign of queen Mary, and that Ambrose earl of Warwick might have it restored. This family, we know, did claim many estates of their maternal ancestors, earls of Warwick, and were allowed them by particular grants. Ambrose died without issue in 1589; and though he left his estate to the famous Sir Robert Dudley, made a duke of the Empire, king James I. got

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them

them in a great measure annexed to the crown; it may be that the tythes were given away or sold to the *Rugeley* family, who were succeeded in Shenstone by the *Brandretbs.*

The late Samuel Hill, esq. was a noble benefactor to the church. After he had got the advowson, he paid two hundred pounds to obtain queen Anne's bounty of the like sum, and joined with the people of Tamworth in purchasing of land at Thatchmore, near Fisherwick, in 1734. On a division made between the two parishes, about thirty-four acres were allotted to the minister of Shenstone, now in the holding of Mr. John Wright of Lichfield, and Brooks of Thatchmore.

The vicarage-house stands near the church, Westward, on a pleasing descent, having a prospect delightful enough, but by no means equal to the church-yard, and is in good condition, more than a hundred pounds having been expended upon it by the late vicar to rebuild one part, and repair the rest; adjoining to it are a barn, a stable erected by Samuel Hill, esq. convenient gardens, and three acres and a half of glebe land.

The first vicar we can trace out was Mr. Robert Bervis in queen Elizabeth's reign; the next Mr. Gervis, unless they are one and the same person, which from the bad writing I could not distinguish. He was in 1603 succeeded by the Reverend Arthur Creffet, living in 1610, from which time to 1655 no account of the vicars can be found; that year the Reverend Gamaliel Tunstall was both vicar and register, as he signs himself*. In 1663 the Reverend Michael Walford held the living. He died in September 1665, and was buried here on the 14th. We meet next with the reverend William Grace, A. M †; and after him in

* The register-office was instituted by the protector Oliver Cromwell.

† Who died in 1690, aged 90 and upwards See p. 14.

a little time the reverend Robert Grace, it may be son of William ; Robert was living in 1721, but very aged. The next, 1723, was the Reverend George Crispe, who died July 1731, and was buried the 24th of that month. This gentleman had a large school of gentlemen boarders, many of whom yet survive, and for him was the school-house erected or enlarged, now termed the vestry-room. His widow, a person of fair character and known hospitality, long survived, dying in November 1766, at the age of 81, or more, and has left issue one son and two daughters. The minister who possessed the benefice on the decease of Mr. Crispe, was the Reverend John Leigh, of the ancient family seated at Rushall-hall. He died in March, 1743-4, leaving one daughter, living in 1768.

The Reverend Mr. Manwaring was the next vicar, but resigned it in three or four years ; and was succeeded by the Reverend Thomas Cox, A. M. of Walsall, master of the Grammar school in that town, minister of Bloxwich ; which gentleman taking the living of Dunton-Basset in Leicestershire, by the law against holding pluralities without a dispensation, vacated this, to which, in February, 1759, the Reverend Edward Harwood, A. M. fellow of Clare-Hall, Cambridge, was presented ; all which three persons were living in 1768. It is recorded of the Reverend Robert Grace, that he was the incumbent at this place 58 years ; and that Rowland Smith, his clerk, held his office upwards of 57 years ; the present clerk has had it 30 years.

The act of parliament first ordering register books to be kept in every parish passed in 1538, 29 Henry VIII ; expressing that the clergyman should write the day and year of every wedding, christening, and burial, and in those books set down every person's name so married, christened, or buried. This was at the instigation, and by the particular interposition, of that great re-

former Thomas Cromwell, baron Okeham and earl of Effex, vicar-general, and vicegerent of king Henry VIII. over all ecclesiastical persons in this kingdom, by virtue of which high office he sat uppermost in the convocations above all the clergy, the archbishops not excepted.

If such register was ever kept at Shenstone, it must have been destroyed, for nothing of this nature appears till the year 1579, 21 Eliz. In the month of March, amongst other notable occurrences, a visitation is recorded to have been holden at Shenstone upon August 6, 1606, attested by Arthur Cresset, vicar, John Sylvester, and John Hunt, churchwardens; and to this time the archdeacon of Staffordshire (at present, Edmund Law, D. D. a most ingenious learned divine and metaphysician, head of St. Peter's college, Cambridge) holds his visitation in this village in November, yearly. Likewise on July 14th, 1609, remark is made of a great visitation held by Richard * archbishop of Canterbury, at Lichfield; at which time a copy of the register was delivered in to his officers or commissioners. In 1655-6, notice is taken of an officer named the register, banns of marriage being thrice published in the church, John Smith, locksmith, the register, and Alice Garner, were married February 13th before Richard Floyer, of Hintz, esq. justice of the peace, by orders given by Oliver Cromwell †, signed Gamaliel Tuntall, the vicar, and John Smyth, register. In June 1656, the banns being published on three Lord's days,

* Bancroft.

† Oliver Cromwell's parliament of 1653 passed an act that all marriages should be made by a justice of peace, and the banns asked three several days in the next market. None were forbidden to be married by a minister, but without a justice of peace the marriage was void. On this many wary couple were married both ways. By the same act passed by Barebones Parliament, as it was named, a register was to be appointed in all parishes, and who was to keep an account of those marriages, whose ceremonies were performed by the justices.

Thomas Wyatt of Footherley, and Sarah Miller of Chesterfield, were married before Richard Floyer, justice of the peace, April 4, 1659, Thomas Cooper and Thomas Ward being set down as churchwardens; Thomas Wyat and Rowland Serjeant, as overseers of the poor; Gamaliel Tunstall signs as vicar and register.

I had almost forgot that the clock was purchased and given for the use of the parish by the excellent lady Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Hill, esq. of Shenstone park; and in the church-yard is a neat dial set upon a pedestal of polished stone, with steps to ascend to it, placed there by Mr. Fryth at the charge of eleven pounds, not more ornamental than useful.

The church-yard is computed to consist of an acre of ground. Many years since a low wall was built round it; but on its decay, and not being thought sufficient fence, rails were set up against some parts of it nine or ten years ago; these decaying, the old wall was repaired with the remaining materials, and where it was requisite new walls of brick were raised by Mr. Hardwic of the Boffes, Mr. Smith of Nether Stonhall, churchwardens, and next year compleated by John Dolphyn, esq. and Mr. Wadams, who served that office. On two sides of the church are planted beautifully spotted sycamores, procured by Samnel Hill, esq. from St. John's, or Trinity college, Cambridge. These stand chiefly to the North and West; and with other trees near, being surmounted by the tower and some portion of the church, give in several directions the appearance of such an edifice in the midst of a grove. The whole, at a distance, resemble a hanging wood near a noble and stately plantation, happily adapted to the inequalities of the ground, so as to produce a most striking, and at the same instant a most pleasing effect, and will by all, even those of but a common taste, be acknowledged a fine rural landscape.

By

By a memorial in the church we are informed, that it was new-covered, cieled, and beautified, and many new seats erected, in the years 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, by the care and trouble of Mr. John Jackson of Chesterfield, who was content to be continued churchwarden with Mr. Samuel Brown of Foothrley for those years, in order to the perfecting of so pious and decent a work. By these officers the wainscoting was set up for the greater warmth and conveniency, separating the belfry, and excluding the only two doors by which is any entrance.

In the South chancel are monuments of marble. Over the first, which is handsome, is an escutcheon of white marble with a coat of arms, parted per pale, Argent and Azure, on the first three right hands Vert, coupé at the wrist, on the Azure three cinquefoils, Or; crest, on a wreath a right hand grasping a sword, proper.

Underneath, the following inscription;

Mary daughter of Sir Gabriel Lowe, of Newark in the county of Gloucester, knight, first married to Robert Ducie, of Little Aston in this parish, esq. and afterwards to Thomas Jolliffe *, of Coston in the county of Worcester, esq. exemplary for piety, and endowed with many virtues and eminent, which rendered her an ornament to her sex, lies buried near this place. She departed this life on or near the 6th day of May, in the 42d year of her age, anno Dom. 1663.

Her latter husband hath erected this monument in memory of so excellent and deserving a wife.

On a stone within a frame of wood as we enter the aisle from the North door, we read,

Εἰς τὰς αἰῶνας, ἀμήν.

Quod reliquum est Gulielmi Grace, A. M.

hujusque Ecclesiæ ritu Anglicano olim

Vicarii, hic reconditur.

Juxta

* In 1673 was Thomas Jolliffe, of Leeke, esq.

Juxta jacet Joanna Grace, prefati Gulielmi conjux unica.

E vivis exceffit ; illa anno

a Chrifli natu MDCLXVIII,

ætatis fuæ præter propter LII ;

Nonagenarius ille & ultra deceffit

tandem et in fide Chrifli obdormivit,

VII. idus Novembris, æræ Chriflianæ MDCXCIX.

J. Grace, ecclefie cathedralis Lichfield Thefaurarius,

ejusdemque Gulielmi ex Joannâ filius,

hunc lapidem fepulchralem pariter ac infcriptum

in memoriam parentum pofuit, facravit.

Befides the monument aforementioned, there ftands a very neat one on the Eaft fide, directly oppofite, of grey and black marble, and of curious workmanfhip ; over it a coat of arms, party per pale, Argent, a fefs, Gules, engrailed Azure, on it three lambs paffant, Argent, between three Catherine wheels, Azure. Upon the monument of grey marble is a large urn of black marble, rather jutting out ; and on a well-polifhed black one beneath, inferted in the grey marble, is the following infcription :

Near this place lies the body of Richard Scott, of Little Afton in this parifh, efq. He married Anne one of the daughters of John Addyes, efq. of Moorhall in the county of Warwick, who alfo lies interred clofe by the remains of her dearly beloved hufband. They left iffue one only daughter, Mary the wife of Andrew Hacket, of Moxhul in the county of Warwick, efq. The aforefaid Mrs. Anne Scott caufed this monument to be erected to testify the regard and great affection ſhe bore to fo tender a hufband, and fo valuable a friend. In the time of life they were fignal examples of patience and refignation to the will of God, which they long manifested under the fevereft trials of bodily pain and infirmities. At the time of death they were full of comfortable hope of a more happy re-union hereafter. He was born 26 February, 1672, and died 6 June, 1734, aged 62. She was born 10 June, 1689, and died 25 November, 1754, aged 65.

The

The following gifts are fairly preserved on several tables in the church.

Richard Ruggeley, of Hawkfyrd, esq. by his last will (proved in the prerogative court of Canterbury, 1623), gave the rents of several parcels of lands called Bulmores, lying in this parish, to the poor inhabitants of the same, to be distributed yearly on the feast day of St. Thomas for ever.

[These lands are 48 acres, of which twelve acres are in the holding of — Ridding of Upper Stonhall, twelve held by John Salt of the same hamlet, twelve held by John Sedgewick of Hilton, and about twelve more under a lease of 21 years to Thomas Adcock of Lyndon, at the yearly rent of 13l. 2s. 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$; which money is faithfully distributed to the poor of each hamlet without any deduction, in proportion to the wants of every person, and agreeable to lists given in by the officers and other inhabitants on the day appointed by the donor. Widows are first considered, and have not less than five shillings apiece if their circumstances in any degree require it; much to the commendation of those that distribute this charity, who thereby pay the greatest respect in their power to the memory of the pious benefactor, and their thankfulness to God, who disposed his heart thus to befriend the poor.]

Rowland Fryth, esq. lord of this manor, pursuant to an agreement made between his father, Edward Fryth, gent. lord of this manor, and the freeholders of the township of Fotherly, concerning the inclosing a waste piece of ground called Radley-moor, within the said township, did by deed convey one piece of the said waste ground called the Poor's Piece to trustees for the use of the poor inhabitants of Fotherley for ever; the rent to be distributed to and amongst them annually, by the major part of the freeholders of that township. This land is twelve acres and a half, let at five pounds ten shillings.

Granada Brown, the relict of the said Edward Fryth, and mother of the said Rowland, left the sum of fifty pounds in the hands of her said son, in trust; that he should lay out the same in lands, or otherwise, as he thought fit, so as the profit should be given, for ever, amongst the poor widows of the township of Lynn, and the two Stonhalls; or, for want of poor widows, to and amongst the other poorest inhabitants of the said townships; and be distributed annually upon the day of her death, which happened on the Feast of St. Matthias, 1696.

Mr. Thomas Cooper of Lynn, by his last will proved at Lichfield, 1667, gave ten shillings for ever to ten poor widows, or the poorest inhabitants of Lynn and the two Stonhalls; to be issued out of lands called Nickin's Farm, to be distributed annually on the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle for ever.

Mr. Wenloe Sedgewick, of Little Aston, gave the sum of three pounds to the poor inhabitants of Little Aston, and left the same in the hands of his son James to be disposed of accordingly; the interest of this is distributed to the poor of Little Aston by James Mofs, tenant to John Butler, gent.

John Stubbs, of Huntington near Cannoe, gent. (to whom or family John Butler devised the estate at Aston, formerly Sedgewicks) says, his tenant. Jackson pays yearly five shillings to Aston poor.

A crimson velvet pulpit cloth, with a cushion of the same, fringed and tasseled with gold and silk fringe, was given by Dr. William Gibbons of London, fellow of the College of Physicians there, whose mother was a native of this parish, daughter to Mr. Fryth of Thornes.

[These (from the great care taken of them) remain yet fresh and handsome, and are an ornament to the church and pulpit.]

A small silver salver was given for the service of the communion by Mrs. Elizabeth Fryth, wife of Rowland Fryth, lord of this manor.

The dial in the church-yard was given and set up at the only charge of the said Rowland Fryth, esq.

[Notice is taken, that the last table was set up in 1711, by John Collins, and Thomas Dickinson, gentlemen, churchwardens.]

Mr. Robert Greisbrooke, of Shenstone, left 30s. to a schoolmaster at Shenstone, for the schooling of four poor children of Shenstone, to be issuing out in the same village, given by will to his nephew Greisbrook Cramp, to be paid yearly for ever. This was set up by Thomas Barfoot, and J. Jackson.

John Sylvester, of Overstonhall in this parish, bachelor, departed this life July 1, 1726. He gave ten shillings for ever to the poor widows in the township of Overstonhall; and left one acre of land lying in the Hill field-piece on the West side, under the hedge of Mr. Thomas Dickinson, in the year 1727. This memorial was set up by Thomas Barfoot, and John Jackson, gentlemen.

William Smyth, citizen and barber-surgeon of London, did by will, dated August 12, Anno Dom. 1720, give, devise, and bequeath, unto the minister of the parish of Overstonhall for the time being, and his successors for ever, the annual sum of five pounds, to be issuing and payable out of that part of his estate before devised to his nephew John Smyth, which he purchased of Mr. Turner, clear of all charges and deductions whatsoever, upon this special trust and confidence, that he the said minister for the time being, and his successors for ever, shall yearly,

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with the said sum of five pounds, place and put out to apprentice one poor boy, son of some poor inhabitant of the town or village of Over Stonhall aforesaid, adding, that his will and mind is, that the said poor boy be put apprentice to a barber from time to time, if he shall be thought thereto qualified by the said minister for the time being; but, if it shall happen that there shall not be found one poor boy of the said town or village, yearly to be placed out, then he wills that the said annual sum shall be laid up by the said minister for the time being; and if in three years a boy be found, that then the money so laid up shall go toward the advancement of the said boy, and so from time to time as often as it shall happen that such poor boy cannot be found out yearly to be put out apprentice. This table was set up 1751, by John Crump, and Rowland Hodgkin, churchwardens.

[The last donation hath been of the greatest use, many tradesmen not only in the said hamlet and parish of Shenstone having received it when set out apprentices, but others that are well settled in other places, though we must indeed observe from the liberty allowed of the boys "being thought qualified for barbers by the minister," they have been placed out to better trades. Such have been ready for the money for many years, so that none could be stored up by the trustee, at the same time no deduction or charge hath been made to the lessening the said sum of five pounds that we know of.]

In the aisle on the North side is a stone monument of a pyramidical form against the wall, but it is by no means curious: on it this writing:

Here lyeth the bodys of Alexander Adcock, and Jane his wife. He departed this life June 7, 1721, aged 71. She died September 9, 1729, aged 78. William, their son, departed this life February 21, 1731, aged 55. These are of a family settled at Nether Stonhall a long time.

For the benefit of the English reader here is given a free translation of the Latin monument of William Grace and Joan his wife.

For ever. Amen.

Here lie the remains of William Grace, Master of Arts, formerly vicar of this church, according to the English Establishment.

Near him lies Joanna, or Joan, Kole, wife of the aforesaid William Grace. She departed this life in the year of Christ's nativity 1668, aged about 52.

He survived to the age of about ninety or more, and at length departed * with a full trust in Christ, on the 7th of the ides of November, in the year of the Christian æra 1699.

Job Grace, treasurer of the cathedral church at Lichfield, and son of the said William and Joanna, dedicated and set up this sepulchral memorial and inscription to his parents.

Matters worthy notice, or that have any thing particular relating to them, in the church-yard, are,

A neat monument of azure coloured stone, of a very fine grain, and well polished, standing upon a foundation of white ones; at the four corners are pillars of white stone, neatly cut and polished.

This is placed over the body of a gentleman of 25 years old, son of Richard and Mary Burges, of Quarndon in the county of Leicester, who put an end to his own life at the Welch harp in Upper Stonhall, whither he came as a traveller in the stage coach.

On a grave-stone :

Here lies the body of John Shenstone. He died August 14, 1727, aged 73.

And these lines :

Weep not for me, I am at rest,
To dwell with Christ is ever best ;
Your loss in me is Christ his gain,
There we shall ever with him remain ;
Then strive to gain the glorious crown,
Till here by me you do lye down.

Two stone tombs stand near each other in the center of the church-yard, on the South side of the church, with the following inscription :

Alexander Ward, his corps here doth lie,
A person of renown'd integrity ;

* Was buried on the 10th of November.

Who at Freefort did live, and died there,
 Jehovah his creatour hee did feare;
 The tenth of December buried was he,
 And in the year of our Lord sixty-three.
 By one dear wife children nineteen had hee,
 A wonder's wonder this seem doth to me:
 At Leichfield city heead bailiff thrice hee was,
 Which office none foe oft did there through pass;
 A friend to the needy, a succour to the poor,
 An image of unparrel virtue shure,
 Not of the world, but himself a victour hee,
 Thus greater then Alexander the Great could bee.

Ætatis suæ 75.

On this are severall escutcheons cut in the stone, but no arms are found.

Henry Ward intomb'd alsoe is here,
 A kinsman to the other was he most neare,
 The eighteenth of November buried was
 In the year sixty-one he did not pass,
 Together liv'd they, death did them secrete,
 The thread of life foe wilt thou separate.
 Death seizeth all when time expired is,
 Youth, age, and strength, it none of these doth miss.
 Theis brothers are therein, which all be nuff,
 The graves, our long home, shall be in the dust
 Though dead they are, of them who more can say,
 In person dead their fames will not decay.
 What though their roots be gone, their buds remain;
 The trees being dead, their fruit doth spring again.

Ætatis illius 70.

The letters are all capitals, and so defaced as to be hardly legible.

On

On a flat stone :

In memory of Edward Lake, (ge)nt.
who departed this life February,
(æra) Christianæ 1701, (æta)tis suæ 83.

The inclosed letters are worn out.

Upon a stone to the memory of Robert Collins, and Margaret his wife.

Remember me
When this you see ;
As I am, so must you be,
Therefore prepare to follow me.

Four lines more are entirely gone.

Upon a grave-stone over the corpse of Sarah Ingram, who died in 1751, aged 81.

A loving wife, a tender parent, a good neighbour, ready to do good to all in her power.

The monument of William Smyth, surgeon and barber, remains in ruins, as it hath done many years, to the reproach of the inhabitants of Upper Stonhall, who have a claim to his charity, and to those who have received of his bounty and are in good circumstances.

In the church-yard wall remains a stone hollowed out in the Romish times for the reception of holy water, found a few years since when the church was repaired ; it stood near the North door, against the wall on the left hand. Over it stood the figure of a lamb cut in stone, with other ornaments, and there yet is a carving much like the half of a wheel in stone.

Churchwardens were unquestionably of very ancient institution ; but we cannot positively fix the time, though we may the date, of the overseers of the poor. Before the dissolution of the monasteries, all the poor were maintained by those religious houses ;

houses; but after king Henry VIII. had demolished them, the poor became not only distressed in themselves, but also a public grievance; on which an act of parliament passed in the 4th of Elizabeth for their relief, and appointing overseers for that end.

The dedication of churches in memory of some saint is taken notice of by St. Augustine, who says, "The nations erected temples to their Gods; we erect them to our martyrs, but not as unto Gods, but memorials as unto dead men, whose spirits are still living with God." And again, "To them," speaking of angels and saints, "we appoint no churches, because they are not to us as Gods." Whence it is manifest, that they are consecrated or dedicated to God only, though it was in memory of some particular saint, either because by the ministry of the saints it pleased God to shew some rare effect of his power; or else in regard of death, which those saints having suffered for the testimony of Jesus Christ, did thereby make the places where they died venerable; and again, because good and virtuous men were desirous of giving such occasion of mentioning them often, to the end that the naming of their persons might cause enquiry to be made about them and their good lives, and give occasion for meditating upon their virtues.

In the time of king Edward I. a decree was made by Robert de Winchelsea, archbishop of Canterbury, in his metropolitical visitation, and confirmed by Walter Reynolds, his successor in that see, that the parishioners throughout all the archdeaconries of his province should take care that the image of that saint, to whose memory the church was dedicated, be always erected in the chancel of each parish church; but these were pulled down in the reign of king Edward VI. or queen Elizabeth.

It is customary to go a processioning, or bannering, as the people term it, once only in about seven years in this parish, on
account

account of the expence, or at the change of the lord of the manor, or the coming in of a new vicar; the nature of which custom, and whence it hath its rise, may please the reader.

At the time of the Reformation, when processions, which made part of the solemnity in the Gang week, were abolished by reason of the abuse of them, yet for retaining the perambulation of the circuits of parishes, it was enjoined in the reign of queen Elizabeth, that the people should once a year at the usual time, with the minister and substantial men of the parish, walk round the parish as was customary, and at their return to church make the common prayers, provided that the minister at convenient places shall admonish the people to give thanks to God for the increase and abundance of the fruits of the earth, repeating the 103d psalm. At which time the minister shall inculcate this and such like sentences, "Curfed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark." No such prayers have, indeed, since been appointed; but there is a homily divided into four parts, the three first parts to be used on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and the fourth on the day when the parishioners make their procession.

One author says the service formerly appointed in the Rogation day of procession was the 103d and 104th psalms, with the Litany, and Suffrages, and the Homily of Thanksgiving *, (7 Eliz.) the two psalms were to be said at convenient places in the common perambulation; the people thus giving thanks to God in the beholding of God's benefits, the increase and abundance of his fruits upon the earth; at their return to church they were to say the rest of the service mentioned and enjoined.

Gang week is what we call Rogation † week. The word Gang is Saxon, signifying a walking or going about, and was par-

* Bishop Sparrow's Rationale of the Common Prayer, p. 118.

† From the Gospel now used, which teaches us how to ask of God so as we may obtain.

ticularly

ticularly applied to this week, from the custom observed of walking the bounds of a parish. The Brownists (sectaries of note in Charles I.) make it the 23d article of their charge against the Church of England, terming it expressly “The Gang week, and praying over the corn and grafs;” a charge that is sufficiently invalidated by what is above said.

It may not be amiss to say something of the Feast of Dedication, commonly called the Wake, kept the first Sunday after St. John the Baptist’s day.

That such festivals were very ancient, we have the evidence of the Scripture*; and St. Augustin says, the Jews usually celebrated the day when their temple was consecrated. That they were originally kept annually on the same saint’s day, unto whose memory the church was dedicated, no doubt can be made: which duty so performed by Christians was by St. Basil termed a worship of God, and a reverence to the martyrs; neither can we do less than suppose, that the pious and devout munificence of the founder and endower of the church was likewise then gratefully remembered, as a particular service was used in that solemnity. From the people assembling in the church, and with praises to God watching all night there, in imitation of the shepherds watching over their flocks by night, came the name of a *wake* or *waking*. A legendary manuscript of St. John the Baptist records, “that the people came to the church with candles burning, and would wake; and come with light towards night to the church in their devotions; afterward they fell to songs and dancing, harping, piping, also to gluttony and sin; thus they turned the holyness into cursedness, on which the holy fathers ordained, that the people should leave that waking, and fast the even.” This the learned Antiquary,

* John x. 22.

who gives this account, thinks to have been prohibited in the year 1362 (36 Edward III.) by Simon Islip, archbishop of Canterbury, in virtue of a decree made by pope Gregory IX.

In process of time, inconveniencies arising from the observance of the very days of keeping the festival, especially such as happened in harvest, many of them were altered, and the solemnity transferred to the next Sunday following.

We are told a fair was granted to the village of Shenstone, and that a few years ago people here remember attempts made to revive it upon the Wake Monday; but, lying so near Lichfield and other market towns, or not being supported with a becoming spirit, it met with no success. The origin of such meetings, called Fairs, was from the Wake or annual Feast for the Dedication of Churches, when traders brought goods under the very churches, and in the church-yards, on the Sunday. Thither multitudes coming from the adjacent places, and dangerous tumults arising frequently, the government laid restraints upon them, allowing such meetings only by particular charters.

We shall observe something of parishes in general, from the best authority, and then proceed to speak especially of this.

A parish is that circuit of ground in which the souls under the care of one parson or vicar do inhabit. How ancient parishes are is difficult to ascertain, for it seems to be agreed on all hands, that, in the early ages of Christianity in this island, they were unknown, or at least signified what a diocese now does. No particular church had the dues, but every man was at liberty to give his tithes to whatever priest or church he pleased, provided he did it to some; or they were paid to the bishop.

Camden says, England was divided into parishes by archbishop Honorius, * about the year 630. Sir Henry Spelman affirms they

* The fifth who sat in the chair of Canterbury.

were erected by the Lateran council in 1179. A very ingenious writer says they are both mistaken; for we find them, and even mother churches, in being in 970, mentioned in the laws of king Edgar, which appointed, that all tenths should be given to the principal church to which the parish appertained*. This proves that the kingdom was then divided into parishes; which division probably happened not all at once, but by degrees; for it seems pretty clear and certain, that the boundaries of them were originally ascertained by those of a manor or manors, since it very seldom happens that a manor extends itself over more parishes than one, though there are often many manors in one parish, as is the case in this of Shenstone.

The lords, as Christianity spread itself, began to build churches on their own demesnes, or wastes, to accommodate their tenants in one or two adjoining lordships; and, in order to have divine service regularly performed therein, obliged all their tenants to appropriate their tythes to the maintenance of the officiating minister, instead of leaving them at liberty to distribute them among the clergy of the diocese in general: and this tract of land, the tythes whereof were so appropriated, formed a distinct parish, which will sufficiently account for the frequent intermixture of parishes one with another; for if a lord had a parcel of land detached from the main of his estate, but not sufficient to form a parish of itself, it was natural for him to endow his newly erected church with the tythes of those disjointed lands, especially if no church was then built in any lordship adjoining to those outlying parcels. Some lands, either because they were in the hands of irreligious owners, or such as were careless, or were situate in forests, or desert places, or

* Ut dentur omnes decimæ primariae ecclesiæ ad quam parochia pertinet.

for other unsearchable reasons, were never united to any parish, and therefore continue extra-parochial, and their tithes by custom immemorial payable to the king, in trust that he will distribute them for the good of the church; yet extra-parochial wastes and marsh lands, when improved and drained, are to be assessed to all parochial rates in the next adjoining parish.

In the Northern parts were neither churches nor fonts; and therefore Paulinus, who first converted those people to the Christian faith, baptized them in the river Swale, about the year of our Lord 627. Yet in England parishes were appointed by Honorius aforesaid in the year 636, or, as we noted, in 630, for in this eminent Antiquaries do not agree, "that he might assign to every priest the particular flock on which he should have the charge*." In the primitive times of the English-Saxon church (saith Selden †), viz. about the year 684, the bishop and the whole clergy of the diocese were as one body, living upon their endowments bestowed on the bishoprick, and their treasure that came from the fundry places of devotion, whither some one or other of them, at the bishop's appointment, was sent to preach the word, and administer the sacraments, every clerk having his dividend for his maintenance. Cuthbert, the eleventh archbishop of Canterbury, about the year 752, obtained of the pope, that the bodies of the dead should be buried in church-yards within the cities; whereas, before, the custom was to carry them out of the walls to be interred. In a synod at London, anno 1102, held by Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, it was ordained, that the tenths should be paid to the churches, a proof that they were given at liberty; and even in the year 1200 the laity paid tythes to what church they chose.

* Ut singulis ministris singulos greges quos curarent posset attribuere.

† Hist. of Tythes, p. 254.

Shenstone village, adjoining to the church hill, has something in its appearance very pleasing. The houses in general look neat ; many of them have little courts or gardens in front, which adds to their rural appearance, and are in number about thirty-five, in which reckoning we do not include the seats of those gentlemen who live at a distance from the village, though called properly in its hamlet. The soil is a mixture of earth, inclining to a red cast, and sand ; hence it is generally dry, even soon after great rains. The situation is accounted very healthy, and the air fine, but rather sharp enough for very infirm constitutions, or those that labour either under consumptive complaints or asthmas. As a proof of the wholesome situation, were lately two schools for the instruction of young ladies, which flourished greatly, not more on this account than for the polite education of many gentlewomen now at the head of very good families. The Reverend Mr. Crispe had also a large school of gentlemen ; but, there being no endowment for the future support of it, it ceased with him. A charity school was erected here by a voluntary contribution, under the direction of the late Mr. Barfoot ; and a number of trustees accepted the care of it, all of which are deceased except Joseph Parker, gent. of Lichfield ; the small maintenance allowed to the master, and the great age of the present director, are no small hindrances to its being useful ; the house and school-room are fit for the purpose, and are in good condition.

S H E N S T O N E H A L L.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the church stands a good house, named Shenstone Hall, or the Old Hall, though modern-built, from its being heretofore the seat of an antient family, and built in the manner of those times, half of timber, and the other part plaistered walls. It stood somewhat lower than the present habitation, on the site where the stables are, and nearly fronting it, and was erected by the Rugeleys. The house we now see makes a good appearance, is of brick, edged with stone of the same kind with that of the quarries afore said, with a large porch of the same materials in the fore part, and a handsome court, and round it a high stone wall, adjoining to the great road leading to Lichfield; also two good gardens walled round, and a third for the use of the kitchen. In the best of them lying to the road is a noble terras, exceedingly well shaded with much-admired elms or fycamores of large growth. Close to this, on the other side of the garden-wall, was a rookery; but this was destroyed by the present possessor, as being a nuisance, not only to himself, but to the farmers in the neighbourhood. Near this mansion are a malt-house, excellent stables, a large barn, with other conveniences, and canals for fish. The barn and stables were additions made by the late Samuel Hill, esq. and Thomas Hill, of Terne, esq. and yet the building of the said mansion very much injured the declining fortune of the gentleman who owned it.

The first family that we know certainly to have possessed this seat was that of the *Rugeleys*, of whom very old records speak.

Geoffrey

Geoffrey and Henry de Rugele granted lands to Robert de Wolfeley, to which Richard de Hintz was an evidence. This deed is without date, and probably as early as king Henry III. in which reign we find Richard de Hintz named as a gentleman on a special jury, with Richard de Thickbroom, William de Strethay, and others. In 4 Henry III. Robert de Rugeley was witness to the charter of Nesta de Cokefield (relict of Thomas de Burgh), giving lands (Actonshoe wood) near to Kersey monastery in Suffolk. In the same reign the principal seat of the family was Hawkseyard in Staffordshire, where then resided Humphrey Rugele, whose son and heir was Thomas, whose heir was William, who was obliged to fly out of the kingdom for killing Robert de Byrkeland; but, 26 Edward I, having done some great and faithful service to the English army in Flanders, he received a pardon for that crime. Under this prince, and king Edward II. ——— Rugeley, esq. was seated at Longdon near Lichfield. Francis sold his estate there, and a seat named Chesthall, with the demesne land belonging to it, to ——— Hufsey *, of Albrighton; but in the reign of Edward IV. it was re-purchased from Thomas Ridley, esq. by ——— Rugeley, esq. of the former family, who bore the same arms, and had to wife ——— daughter of Sir John de Freeford, knight, or rather Trefford †, of whom we have this record, that his daughter and heir married into the family of Rugeley, who had a seat at Trefford, and had the prebend of Trefford, and some other advantages

* Hufsey sold the estate to ——— Barlow of Derbyshire, who passed it to Laurence Wright. From 7 to 44 Edward III. it was held by Simon Ridley, who had Richard, father of Thomas.

One author says, it was in the reign of Henry VI. that Hufsey purchased the estate; if so, it was, as we observe, sold twice.

† William Trefford, of Swithamley (1673) in Staffordshire, married Clare, daughter of Sir Edward Longueville, of Woollerton in Bucks, baronet.

with

with her. This branch bore Trefford's arms, and were in being in the reign of king George I. These Treffords bore two coats, one was Argent, a cross engrailed Sable; the other a griffin segreant, Gules. In the reign of Henry VI. we find the family settled in Longdon; and about the end of Henry VII. Humphrey Rugeley, of Longdon, gave Eleanor his daughter in marriage to Richard Broughton, of the same place, esq. by whom she had issue Edward, living 1583, then aged 40, also four daughters, Frances, Catherine, Matilda, and Elizabeth. The said Humphry married another daughter, Elizabeth Rugeley, to Nicholas Bagshaw*, esq. son of Nicholas Bagshaw, of Abeney, Derbyshire, who had by her six sons, of which Nicholas, the eldest, of Abeney and Farwel, near Longdon, in right of his wife, married Joan, daughter of Robert Linacre, esq. and had two daughters, Elizabeth aged 7, (1583) and Nazareth, wife of Thomas Harcourt, esq. of Burrough-hall†, descended of the Ranton Harcourts. 10, 13, and 14 Edward III. Simon de Rugeley, being high-sheriff of Salop and Staffordshire, had the castle of Shrewsbury committed to his custody, bearing then the title of *Valettus Regis*, which shews he was the king's attendant in an honourable condition. One of his daughters married to ——— Agar, esq. whose family was seated at Foston near Sudbury, Derbyshire. Richardus de Ruggele is mentioned as a person of figure, that had a right to bear a coat of arms, in the reign of Richard II. and Henry IV. and has the title of an esquire. 14 Henry IV. Hugh de Ruggeley was one of the founders of a chantry or chapel at Knoll in Warwickshire. Nicholas de Ruggeley was a person of note in the reign of Richard II. and 2 Henry IV, at which time he resided at Haufeyard, and had a

* William Bagshaw of Farwell, at a Visitation of the Heralds at arms, 1583, was allowed to be a gentleman, and to have a right to a coat of arms.

† In Gnosall, Staffordshire.

grant of the rangerſhip of Sutton Coldfield chace. He continued in this office till the 10th or 11th of Henry VI*; when, growing old, he became unfit for that employment, but was afterwards recorded among the knights and eſquires of Warwickſhire, who themſelves ſwore, and were commiſſioned to take the oaths of all others in their ſeveral counties, to promote the peace of the nation, 12 Henry VI, and oblige all to obſerve the articles concluded in parliament between the two royal houſes. We find him alſo employed in diſcovering ſuch perſons as were diſaffected to the Lancaſtrian intereſt, and favoured the York title to the Crown. This ſame gentleman, and Edith his wife †, 8 Henry V, bought of Hugh Stanley, and Joyce his wife, a third part of the manors of Bordeſley and Heybarne in Warwickſhire, on the death of Hugh lord Burnel, which were the eſtates of Joyce his wife, daughter of Thomas ſon of John lord Botetourt. Nicholas de Rugeley alſo (10 Henry V.) purchaſed the manor of Dunton in Warwickſhire of Sir Richard Stanhope, of Rampton in Nottinghamſhire, knight, for his hunting-feat, of which ſport he was exceedingly fond. He died before Editha his wife, who ſurviving left a legacy at her death in the reign of Henry VI. to an anchorite at Stirvichal chapel in Warwickſhire. By this Editha he left iſſue, 1, Simon of Hawkſyard, or Hawkſley, who married Elizabeth, ſecond daughter of Sir John Draycot, knight, deſcended of Sir Philip, brother to William de Malbanc, firſt baron of Nantwich; 2, Nicholas; 3, William, living 20th Edward IV.; 4, Thomas, whoſe daughter and heir, Editha, was married to Ralph Thickneſs, eſq. a gentleman of good family, ſeated at Sutton Cheney and Balterley in Stafford-

* Nicolas, 8 Henry VI. was high ſheriff of Warwickſhire, and ſon of Thomas Rugeley, temp. Hen. IV.

† Daughter and heir of ——— Waldeive, eſq.

shire); also a daughter Jacofa or Joyce, married to Hugh Harman *, of Moorhall, near Sutton Coldfield, and fecondly to Simon Montfort of Kingshurft, Warwickfhire efq. (temp. Hen. VIII.) of the great family long fettled at Colefhill. Nicholas living 33 Henry VI. had a fon William, who by Jane daughter of — Maffey, efq. had James of Warwick, 14 Henry VII. John, fecond fon of this Nicholas, married Joyce † daughter of Ralph Sheldon of Beoley, Worcefterfhire, efq.; and had by her Ralph, who took to wife Rebecca daughter of Rowland Rugeley of Shenftone, efq. whose fon and heir, Sir Rowland, of Shenftone and Dunton, dying 1629, left William, by Elizabeth daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Knolles, knight. William, being a known loyalift in king Charles the Firft's troubles, became very obnoxious to the prevailing party, and was obliged to compound for his eftate at the fum of thirty-three pounds three fhillings and four-pence.

Rowland Rugeley the elder, as above, married Ellen daughter and fole heir of John Thirkell, of Smallwood, Staffordfhire, efq. by Jane daughter and coheir of Sir Lewis Bagot, knight, of Bagot's Bromley, by Emma Kniveton, the firft of his five wives, with whom he poffeffed the manor of Smallwood, but refided at Shenftone. This Rowland and Ellen Thirkill had iffue, 1, William, living 1583; 2, Thomas, who married a daughter of — Pegge, of Tettenhall, Staffordfhire; 3, George; 4, James, who married Margery daughter of — Clarke, efq. and two daughters, Joan wife of Thomas Rowley of Heykeley; and Rebecca wife of Ralph Rugeley, of Dunton. William fuc-

* In the 19th of Henry VIII. 1523, Hugh Harman, or Vefey, fon of William and Joan Harman, of Sutton Coldfield, brother and heir to the bifhop of Exeter, by Joyce de Rugeley, had four daughters, Joan, Eleanor, Margaret, and Dorothy.

† She furvived, and re-married to Thomas Baskerville of Curdworth.

ceeded, and lived at Shenstone hall; by Elizabeth his wife daughter of John Knutsford * of Malvern, Worcestershire, esq. he had issue, 1, Richard, aged 19 in the year 1583; 2, Rowland; 3, Thirkel; 4, Henry; also five daughters, Ellen, Jane, Anne, Margaret, and Penelope. On the 7th of December, 22 Charles I. Thomas Rugeley, esq. of Shenston, witnessed a deed conveying lands of Roger Adams of Fotherley to James Fletcher of the same village; and in 1649 evidenced the conveyance of a tenement passed by the said Roger Adams to J. Collier, and in 1648 to lands which Roger assigned to Robert Adams, his son, at Fotherley; also, the same year, of lands passed over by Roger Adams to Alexander Warde of Shenstone, or Wood-end.

In 1581, April 23, was buried at Shenstone Mr. Rugeley, and in September that year Elizabeth Rudgeley. In 1590 Rowland Rudgeley had a son Thomas baptized January 8, and a daughter Elizabeth in April, 1591. George Rugely of Shenstone, gent. was buried there the 29th of April, 1598. William Rugeley, esq. was buried the 14th of June, 1602.

In the 16th of Henry VI. May 24, John Rugeley was made Ranger of Sutton Goldfield chace by grant, on which I conjecture he acted in that capacity for Nicolas, who was far advanced in years, and then succeeded him 16 Henry VI. This John's feat was at Wiggington, Warwickshire, and his wife was Margery only daughter of John Holt, esq. of Birmingham Aston. In the reign of Henry VII. Laurence Thickness, esq. of Batterley, married —— Rugeley's daughter, and had Ralph and Robert, feated

* John Knutsford, of Malvern-house, Warwickshire, serjeant at arms about the reign of queen Mary, or queen Elizabeth, married Joan eldest of the five daughters and heirs to Richard Knightly, of Upton in Northamptonshire, esq.; coheirs also to Sir Edmund Knightly, knight, who died in the 34th year of Henry VIII. possessed of the manor of Southam, Warwickshire.

at Beaumaris, Anglesey, which Ralph was father of Robert, who resided at Whittingdon, Staffordshire, and of Ralph, of whom the family at Batterley descended for many generations.

John Ruggely, abbot of Mereval, Warwickshire, was the chief instrument of founding the gild at Manceter, 37 Hen. VI. for poor people of Atherston and Manceter*.

In the 14th of Edward IV. Thomas Riggeley witnessed a deed conveying lands at Horecros, Staffordshire. In the reign of James I. Mary daughter of John Rugeley of Coventry, and of Dunton, was married to George Barbour, esq. of Tamworth, or some feat near it, who had issue by her the noted Leicester Barbour†, an active officer of the Parliament in the the troublesome times of King Charles I. also one of the committee at Stafford.

In the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII. Humphry Rugeley of Rudgley, Staffordshire, whence most likely the family came, married Maud, daughter of Richard Grosvenor, esq. son of Sir Robert by Catherine daughter and coheir of Richard Coton of Hampfall Ridware, but she died without issue October 8, 3 Hen. VIII. William Rugeley, esq. (whom I take to be the son of John, ranger of Sutton chace in the reign of Henry VI.) page of the royal wardrobe, and page of the chamber, had by letters patent, dated at Westminster, the office of keeper of the chace at Hillwood, or Sutton Parva, with the same fees and privileges as any of his predecessors in that office; and 16 Henry VIII. Sept. 21, had the office of keeper of the woods and beasts of the outwoods called Lyndridge, in the county of Warwick. One of the family seated at Smallwood, named William, was allowed to be a gen-

* See Mr. Bartlett's History of Manceter, p. 101.

† Whose family was raised by their service and attendance upon Robert Dudley earl of Leicester (of whose title comes his name), and after of his countess. This Leicester, or a son of his, was living in 1673, at Tamworth.

tleman by the heralds at arms in their visitation, 1583, 25 Elizabeth, and to have good right to bear a coat; as was Thomas Rugeley of Hawkfyard.

In 1623 Richard Rugeley, of Hawkfyard, was a benefactor to the poor of Shenstone. Of this line was colonel Simon Rugeley, a brave officer of the Parliamentarians against king Charles I. in the the civil commotions. He, Lieutenant-colonel Chadwick, Mr. Crompton, Mr. Broughton, Captain Henry Stone of Walsall, Mr. Gregge, Mr. Pudsey of Seifdon, William Bendy of King's Swynford, and Mr. Foxhall, formed the committee at Stafford. These signed a warrant, December 22, 1643, to demolish that castle. Colonel Simon, being an enterprizing man, was sent the same month to command the horse at Newcastle, with a further commission to raise men for its defence and the security of Leek, or to assist Sir William Brereton in Cheshire. To pay his foot, were assigned the weekly contributions of the inhabitants of Forebridge, Tixhall, Ingestre, Loxton, Colton, Marston, Whitgreave, Chebsey, and Cold Norton. To pay his horse and troopers, were appointed the inhabitants of Pipe, Maviston Ridware, Hamstall Ridware, Yoxhall, Newbury, Horecros, Marchington cum membris, Rolleston, Tatenhill, Dunstall, Bramston, Barton under Needwood, Whichmore, Hansacre, Armitage, Bromley Regis, and Ansley. The money also collected of Sir Edward Littleton, and his tenants, was ordered to his disposal, 1644. In April that year he relieved Tonge castle in Shropshire, and took Ecclethall in Staffordshire, after a straight siege of seven weeks; under him served a noted captain of the same name.

On a second subsidy given to queen Elizabeth by the laity in parliament in her 18th year, Rowland Rugeley, esq. named of Dunstall, Tatenhill, and Collingwood, gave for his lands in Offlow hundred

dred 20l. finding besides one lance, and one horseman. Thomas Rugeley, in 1583, had a son named Thomas, who, or his heir, left Hawkley, or Hawkefyard, and other lands, to two daughters coheirs, one of whom was married to Richard Rudgeley, esq. of Callingwood, who had Richard, to whom came Hawkefyard on the division. His son and heir Simon first mortgaged, and after sold this manor, to Sir Richard de Skeffington, baronet, (father of John, the first viscount Massareen of the kingdom of Ireland of the name, in the reign of Charles I ; which Sir Richard was the second son of Sir William the first baronet. It remained with John lord Massareen his son, who sold it to Michael Biddle, gent. The other daughter and coheir of Thomas Rugley married meanly to John Aspinall, a taylor, and had both sons and daughters, of which the eldest, Elizabeth, was wife of John Casee, or Cofac, a gentleman of Leicestershire, whose seat was afterwards at Callow-hill in Staffordshire, an estate of his wife's. Aspinall's wife, surviving her husband, disinherited all her numerous sons, and settled all her lands upon Elizabeth Casee, her daughter, whose husband had a pretty estate of his own in Leicestershire, and bore the character of a most industrious man, wary in buying and selling, of no visible splendour, and yet his circumstances altered in such a manner, that he was obliged to sell not only his own land, but his wife's, and was then left to end his days upon a small stipend of 40l. per annum, to support himself, a wife, and three or four children.

Having given the best account we possibly could collect of this considerable family, and with the utmost exactness, notwithstanding their genealogy through the several branches, and their residing at different mansions, somewhat perplexed us ; we shall only add here, that the Rugeleys of the shenstone line possessed the manors of Hawkefyard and Callingwood in Staffordshire, Knight-
thorp

thorp in Leicestershire, 20 messuages, and 1340 acres in Fradley, King's Bromley, Hanfacre, Rudgeley, and Armitage; they had also good estates in Brereton, Hoxton, Newton, Hamerton, Richardscot, Norton, Haseler, Kingston, Callow-hill, Strethey, Shenstone, Stubby Lane, Marchington, Uttoxeter, Woodlands, Alrewys, Draycot, and Longdon; but so various are the changes of families, that little or nothing is now left in the name or blood.

The arms of the *Rugeleys* were, Argent, a chevron between three roses, Gules, seeded, Or; quartering 2 horses' heads erased, Sable.

Arms of *Thickness* of Batterley; Argent a scythe Azure, a chevron, Sable, fretted Or.

Arms of *Thirkel* of Smallwood; Argent, a maunch, Gules.

Arms of *Bagot*; Argent, a chevron Gules between three martlets Sable.

Arms of *Knutsford*; Sable, a cross engrailed Argent.

The second family that we observed to be settled at Shenstone Old Hall, is that of the *Brandreths*, seated here, by what we can collect, soon after the death of Charles I. at farthest some time under the administration of the protector Oliver Cromwell. *Brandred*, or *Brandreth*, which unquestionably gave name to this family, is a manor within the parish of Acrise, in the county of Kent, belonging to St. Radegund's abbey, till king Henry gave it to the archbishop of Canterbury. Robert Brandrith, in the latter end of the reign of king Henry VI., or early in that of Edward IV. married one of the daughters and coheirs of John Baker, esq. gentleman-porter of the famous city of Calais in France, in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI. With her, besides other estates, he had the manor of Caldham in Kent,
which

which he or his son John sold to Sir Thomas Brown, knight. 1 Edward VI. John Brandreth bought a manor called Moryn Hall. His son and heir was Christopher (40 Eliz.) whose son Thomas was possessed of Moryn Hall, in the parish of Carcolston in the county of Nottingham, by gift of his father. After some time, he passed it to Roger Brandreth his brother; who sold it in the reign of James I. to Robert Thoroton, esq. ancestor to the great Antiquary Mr. Thoroton, author of the "Antiquities of Nottinghamshire." John Brandeth, esq. whom I take to be brother to Christopher, and second son of John who bought Moryn Hall, lived near Shenstone at Weeford Hall, which he either purchased or rented of ——— Digby, esq. of Mansfield Woodhouse in Nottinghamshire, who owned several estates in Weeford and Thickbroome in Staffordshire, if not those manors. Either this gentleman, or John his son of Weeford, two miles from Shenstone, in the reign of James I. was one of the persons appointed by a commission of the lord chancellor under the great seal of England, to examine and settle the extents and bounds of the adjoining parishes. Before these commissioners came among others a woman from the hamlet of Blackbrook, who was to testify as to the limits, and some other particular circumstances. She affirmed, of her own knowledge, that about the reign of Henry VIII. or very soon after, John Vesey, then bishop of Exeter, a man of public spirit, and born close by at Sutton Coldfield, resolving with himself to become a benefactor to that place and the parts adjacent, procured for Sutton not only a mercate and fairs, but got it incorporated by the name of a warden and fellowship; building also a great number of houses upon the large wastes of that parish, with intention to set up the manufacture of kerfies, as was practised in Devon, where his bishoprick lay. Farther, she added, that during these transactions

the

the bishop was frequently at Sutton and thereabouts, and finding the roads much annoyed with rolling pebbles, which often occasioned travellers' horses to stumble, and sometimes to fall, among other works of charity, he hired poor people to gather them out of the ways and lay them on heaps; hence they were called *The bishop's stones*. On the hollow way between Weeford Hills, or rather between Swynfen and Canwell, lie divers heaps, and one great one at the top of the hill at Weeford park corner, which, according to the tradition of the country people, were placed there in memory of a bishop of Lichfield, who, riding with many attendants, was slain, with those servants, by robbers; and that these heaps were laid where the bodies were found, which, agreeable to this account, and to honest and accurate antiquaries, is entirely fabulous.

John Brandreth of Weeford Hall had a son Richard, and, as I suppose, Henry, who made a considerable figure in the troubles under Charles the First, and, in the year 1659 was one of the members of the committee of state, or of safety, appointed by the army under Fleetwood and Lambert, thirteen days after they had dispersed the Rump parliament, viz. on the 26th of October, to whom the government was committed. The particular commission of this Henry Brandreth *, and his twenty associates, was to execute all the powers invested in the council of state; to punish all delinquents concerned in the late conspiracy with Sir George Booth and his friends; to give indemnity to all who had acted for the Commonwealth since the year 1649; to oppose and suppress all insurrections, to dispose of all places of trust that were void; to remove such as were scan-

* Ludlow's Memoirs. Dugdale's View of the Troubles.

dalous;

alous ; to treat with foreign states ; to raise the militia ; and, lastly, to make sale and composition for the estates of delinquents. The council of officers resolved to obey them so long as they would do what should be prescribed to them. The committee, though filled up with men of almost all parties, was so craftily composed, that the balance was sufficiently secured to those of their own faction. This committee, wanting capacity or resolution to extricate themselves out of their difficulties, and being in the utmost perplexity after the declarations to restore the Rump Parliament, by the fleet, the governor of Portsmouth, and that part of the army which deserted their interest, consented to the restoring of the parliament, which met the 26th of December, and gave up their authority. Richard, son of John Brandreth, esq. was seated at Shennstone Hall, whether as succeeding his father in it, or by purchase, or marriage, we cannot affirm. Richard had John, aged 26, 1663, March 30 ; Roger, and William, and as I think four daughters ; Jane wife of John Noble, esq. of Farwel and Longdon, son of Michael that died in 1648-9, a busy man in the war raised against king Charles I. son of Edward, who lived in Lichfield close, son of John Noble of Farwel, gentleman. John and Jane Brandreth had a son Michael, aged 14 in 1664, at which time his father was 43 years old. In 1673 John Noble, gent. was of Charley near Longdon. About 1756 died ——— Noble, of Longdon Hall, who had two wives, but left no issue.

Of the other daughters, one was wife of ——— Degge*, esq. another of ——— Swynfen, of Swynfen, esq. ; and the other, named Sarah, of William Heath, of Hammerwich Hall, father of John, who lived in Leicestershire, and by a daughter of ——— Serjeant, had Serjeant Heath of Wolverhampton, whose only

* In 1673 was Sir Simon Degge, of Callow Hill, knight.

child, Mary, was married to Mr. John Stubbs of Walfall, second son of Francis Stubbs, gent. of Huntington in Staffordshire, and hath issue.

In 1660 Elizabeth * Brandreth, widow, was buried at Shentone July 5.

Robert Brandreth, in the reign of king Charles I. or soon after, married Elizabeth, eldest of the three daughters of Michael Biddulph, esq. by Elizabeth eldest daughter of Sir William Skeffington of Fisherwick, ancestor of the earl of Massareen in Ireland; which Elizabeth, wife of Robert Brandreth, esq. was sister of Sir Theophilus Biddulph, of Westcombe in Kent, knight, who in 1664 was created baronet.

John Brandreth and Anne his wife had a son Michael, baptized November 6, 1665, most likely after the name of his grandfather Michael Biddulph; also a son John, baptized February 13, 1667; Anne and Mary, twins, baptized August 1, 1668, and Elizabeth, upon November 12, 1669. John Brandreth, gent. was buried here December 18, 1669; and I find Anne Brandreth, widow, paying to the poll-tax in 1692 (3 William III.) two shillings for herself and a maid servant; if this was the relict of John, who was styled gentleman in the register, she must be far advanced in years. Roger Brandreth, gent. was buried November 28, 1681. In 1688, on the 27th of December, were married Mr. Robert Radford and Miss Anne Brandreth, and 1691, December 3, Mary their daughter was baptized.

* Relict of Robert, and daughter of Michael Biddulph, esq. One account says Elizabeth Biddulph was wife of Richard Brandreth, esq.

† In 1667 this John paid for his majesty's royal aid, as assessed June 11, for the houses of Mr. Walford and John Sylvester, 11. 17s. 9d.

In

In 1673 William Brandrith, or Brandrick, was seated at Shenstone Hall, as appears from a list of the gentry of Staffordshire of that date, whence I suppose him to have been the eldest son of John, who died in 1669; and Anne, living in 1692, to have been William's widow. Michael, and Mary his wife, had issue Michael, baptized April 17, 1693, Anne, baptized July 17, 1694, John, baptized December 6, 1695, a child still-born, February 2, 1696, Elizabeth, an infant, born 1698, in November, and died soon after. The father died in 1705, and was buried July 29, and his relict Mary *, May 5, 1713. She was one of the daughters and coheirs of ——— Stanton, esq.; the other three coheirs married, one to ——— Degge †, of Derby, esq. of whom ——— Degge, of Worcester, esq. another to ——— Charlton of Stanton, and the fourth to ——— Sacheverell, of Barton in Nottinghamshire, esq., who had Harry, Philip, Elizabeth, and Anne; Elizabeth was wife of ——— Pole, esq. of Radburn, who had a son that died of an epilepsy in 1761.

Michael Brandreth, esq. was one of the commissioners that confirmed the assessment of the poll-tax in 1692. By the bill all persons (except such as received alms of the parish, poor housekeepers, and their children) were to pay twelve pence quarterly for one year; all tradesmen and artificers, having an estate of the clear yearly value of 300l. and upwards, ten shillings; all gentlemen, or reputed gentlemen, having an estate of 300l. or more; as also all clergymen and teachers who had any ecclesiastical benefice, or contribution, to the value of 80l. per ann. or upwards, twenty shillings; every lord of parliament, spiri-

* Who died at Lichfield, of the small-pox.

† Simon Degge, of the parish of Allhallows, Derby, and Jane Staunton, were married at Shenstone November 2, 1705. Vide register.

tual or temporal, the sum of ten pounds; and all persons who should refuse to take the oaths to their majesties, double the sums charged by the respective heads. This gentleman's fortune was upon the decline when he married: what he had with his wife helped to bear him up for some time; but having hurt himself by building, and other means, he was obliged to sell several estates, particularly in Chesterfield. On his marriage with Mary Stanton, Anne, his mother, left Shenstone Hall, and went to Wilncote near Tamworth, where was an estate and mansion belonging to her husband, deceased; on her death, at Wilncote, her body was conveyed to Shenstone, and laid near the remains of her husband. Anne, daughter of Michael by Mary Stanton, married a citizen of London, whom I have not learnt*, but have some shadow of reason to suppose she married a Mr. Degge.

John afore said, second son of John Brandreth, esq. and Anne his wife, married Mrs. Sparrow of Stone, and there settling, died issueless. Anne, his sister, married the Reverend Mr. Tilly, and had issue Michael Tilly, attorney at law in the city of Lichfield, who was buried at Shenstone. In 1686 mention is made of a marriage between Job Serjeant and Margaret Tilly. Mary married —— Radford, of Tamworth, clerk, and had Mary, who died under age at Tamworth. We return to Michael, eldest son of Michael and Mary Brandreth, who succeeded his father in the month of July, 1705, and was then about twelve years old. He sold, amongst other things, the tythes of Chesterfield, and part of Wall, to an attorney of Lichfield;

* I have since been informed, that the gentleman was —— Fitzgerald, esq. who had a place under the crown. She died without issue, though we are not sure that she did not marry twice; if so, —— Degge might be one of the husbands.

was in the army some time, and died abroad, being then a captain of foot, without issue. This gentleman sold Shenstone Hall, and the lands belonging to it, to the late Samuel Hill, esq. whose purchase of them was made with part of the money reserved for such purposes by the will of the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, his uncle, and entailed, by virtue of which entail they came into the possession of Thomas Hill, esq. of Terne.

In 1731, Lionel Cranfield Sackville, duke of Dorset, then made lord lieutenant of Ireland, appointed the Reverend John Brandreth one of his chaplains, and sent him into that kingdom before him. In 1732, upon the 18th of February, king George II. by letters under his royal sign manual to the lord lieutenant of Ireland, granted to the Reverend John Brandreth the deanery of the metropolitan church of Armagh. What other preferments he had we know not, but understand he gave this deanery up in exchange for that of Kilkenny; afterwards he was made dean of Emely in Ireland, and died there in the month of December, 1764, being then doctor of divinity, and unmarried, aged 59. His principal heir was Degge, esq. now or late of Worcester.

Lady Elizabeth Germaine (of the Berkeley family), a lady well known in the polite world, gave him this character, "that he was as worthy an honest sensible man as any she knew;" and supposes, in one of her letters, that he was recommended to dean Swift's acquaintance.

To the abovesaid account of Henry Brandreth, the committee-man, we add, that when the parliament called Praise God Barebones, 1653, framed an act out of an ordinance of the former council of state, for a lottery of the rebels lands in Ireland, in which one Methuselah Turner, a linen draper in Cheapside, and one
Brandreth

Brandreth (Brandriffe*), a cloth-drawer, were named commissioners, and had already sat in Grocers Hall, with such other most incompetent judges of the affair. These were to dispose of ten counties in Ireland to the adventurers, and to the soldiers for their arrears; if these did not satisfy, the county of Louth was to be added.

Shenstone Hall, since the family of Brandreth sold it, hath been the mansion of several gentlemen as tenants to Samuel Hill, and the family seated at Terne in Salop. These were, — Porter, John Eggington, esq. of the ancient house at Rodbaston in Staffordshire, son of James Eggington, esq. by Catherine Littleton; John Houghton, esq. after of Coleshill Hall in Warwickshire, and whose relict, Mary, yet lives at Hintz Hall. She was daughter of — Lande, clerk, by — daughter of John Rawlins, esq. town-clerk of Lichfield, who had issue two sons and three daughters; one married to the Reverend Mr. Lande, as before; another to Richard Wake, gent. who died without issue, and the third to Jeremiah Hancox, braiser to his late majesty king George II. whose issue were two daughters; of which one married to — Polithiew, of London, the other to — Hays, esq. whose son is a counsel at law. The two sons of John Rawlins, esq. were John, that died a bachelor, and Michael, captain in the guards, who married Bridgett, sister of Richard Dyott, esq. of Freeford, and aunt to Richard Dyott, esq. of the same place, an ancient and reputable family. The present tenant to Noel Hill, esq. is Mr. Joseph Elde, who has with it a farm of more than three hundred pounds per annum.

* Heath's Chronicle, part III. page 357.

Having thus given the best account in our power of Shensstone Hall, and the families belonging to it, we shall only observe farther, that Humphry Rugeley married, as we noted, Maud, the seventh daughter of Richard Grosvenor, esq. by Catherine, third daughter and coheir of Richard Colton of Hamstall-Redware, who was heir to the manors of Thurcaston, Tayme, and Maplewell, in Leicestershire; Coillton and Rosington, in Derbyshire; Hamstall-Redware, Poeswood, and Ashfield in Staffordshire; Colton and Ofcroft in Cheshire; whose grandfather, Sir Richard Colton, knight, married, 31 Hen. VI. Joan daughter of Richard Venables, baron of Kinderton in Cheshire, sister and co-heir of Sir Hugh Venables, slain at the battle of Bloreheath, as Sir Richard Colton himself fell at the battle of St. Albans, 33 Henry VI.

Edmund Rugeley, esq. married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Robert Walsall. esq. and had issue by her a daughter and heir, Barbara Rugeley, married, 37 Henry VIII. to Richard Lawley, of Spoonhill, esq. grandfather of Thomas, created a baronet by king Charles I. to which Richard Lawley, esq. she brought a large estate.

Brandreth's arms; Sable, 5 mascles, Or, the crest a lamb couchant.

Bydulph's arms; an eagle displayed Argent,—ditto 3 fadring irons, Sable.

Skeffington's arms; Argent, 3 bulls heads erased, Sable, horns, Or.

Stanton's arms; Argent, two chevrons with a bordure.

SHENSTONE PARK.

Shenstone Park, or Shenstone New Hall, is best known by the name of *The Park*, because king Henry VIII. had a noble park here full three miles in circuit, well stocked with deer and other game. It was afterwards continued in the same state, even in the years 1640, 1641, and 1642, for Mr. Lake's division of it was so distinguished at that time, and reported by the commissioners, who gave in to the Crown an account of the parks in the county of Stafford to be stocked with deer. 20 Henry III. was the park set out by one of the Grendons, who obtained a licence for that purpose from the superior lord of this manor, provided he made such a fence round it that his forest of Sutton Coldfield should suffer no detriment from it.

The Hall stands on a low ground, gradually declining for a mile from the eminence upon which the church is situated, but rather on rising land from the meadows around; yet it is far from a good site, without any distant view, except a tolerable good view from the church. It seems probable that there was a hunting seat here, erected by the family of the Doyleys soon after the Conquest, and no question is made of such a seat or lodge early in the reign of Henry III. In the 34th year of that king's reign, Richard de Grendon paid 100s. for a charter of free warren in his lands. The same family had it till the reign of Richard II. or Henry IV. of which we shall say somewhat more particular hereafter.

The next possessor of it seems to be one of the Nevils, who had a seat here that we are certain of, though they most likely inherited from the great and noble house of the Beauchamps,

the last of which was Henry duke of Warwick, in the reign of Henry VI. of the male line, who had any concerns here; he died June 11, 1445, 23 Henry VI, leaving only an infant daughter, who died in 1449, aged 6 years. Richard Nevil, earl of Warwick, July 23, 27 Henry VI. next had it, and forfeited it in 1471 to the crown in the reign of Edward IV.; and yet we think that George Nevil, lord Latimer of Danby, had a seat here, and the park; for I find it in the hands of Thomas, second and youngest son of the said lord, who had summons to parliament 10 Henry VI. having before purchased the lordship of Danby (and the other estates of John Nevil lord Latimer being given him by his father on the death of the said lord John, 9 Henry VI.). Sir George Nevil lord Latimer was third son of Ralph first earl of Westmoreland, by his second wife, Joan, daughter of John of Gaunt duke of Lancaster, fourth son of king Edward III. and half sister to king Henry IV.

Thomas Nevil of Shenstone Park (2 Henry VIII.) left John of the same place living in 1584, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who then had two sons, Fulk, aged 10 years, and Francis. In the next reign, or that of king Charles I. the house and park were in the crown, for then we are told*, that king Charles granted it to a native of Scotland, named Balmerino, who sold the park to Lake†, and Alexander Ward, an innkeeper in the city of Lichfield; at which time we conjecture there were three lodges belonging to it, one at the gate leading to Weeford and Little Hay, another towards Sutton Coldfield, and a third at Wood-end.

* In the collection of ——— Wilkes, M. D. late of Willenhall, pen. Reverend Thomas Unett.

† Edward Lake, esq. was of Little Fenton in Staffordshire, in the reign of James I. and Charles I.

Mr. Lake and Mr. Ward of the large park aforesaid made two parks, thus distinguishing their property; the former gentleman likewise built a feat where the lodge-house stood, going towards Weeford and Little Hay.

Roger Lake, in the reign of James I. or Charles I. married Dorothy daughter of William Crompton, esq. of Stone Abbey in Staffordshire, and had by her a son Roger, father, as I suppose, of William of Shenstone park, Edward also of the same place, and of Roger; Dorothy; and Jane, married June 5, 1666, but to whom it is not said; Roger died in September 1696, and was buried September 14.

William had a daughter, Ann, baptized April 1, 1660; and, 1661, is in a deed mentioned as a creditor of Mr. Roger Adams of Fotherley; April 13, 13 Charles II. Dorothy Lake was witness to a deed conveying lands to Walter Rawlins of Little Hay.

In 1663-4, March 11, was buried at Shenstone, Lydia wife of Edward Lake, which gentleman, in 1667, paid 14s. to the quarterly assessment for his majesty's royal aid dated June 11. Dorothy their daughter was buried here June 27, 1665. Edward was living in 1692, in the reign of William III. This same person witnessed a bond of Thomas Alsop, of Little Hay, for money due to Elizabeth Parr, June 20, 1687. In 1692 paid one guinea to the poll tax, a shilling for his man. The register mentions Edward Lake, buried February 15, 1701, aged 83, which person I conclude to be the same person. He had a son Edward, termed in the assessment for the poll-tax, 1692, Edward Lake, junior, gentleman, who paid for himself one guinea, and also for his wife, for his man and maid two shillings. What became of this Edward we know not; but are assured, that Shenstone park soon after came into other hands, viz. of
Joshua

Joshua Head, esq. counsellor at law, who was heir to the family ; son in law as some say, or grandson* as others, to Mr. Edward Lake, senior. Lydia, daughter of Edward Lake, died in May, 1682 ; Jane, another daughter, wife of Sampson Bulkiy, gent. died in January 1768 ; also Thomas their son.

Mr. Head sold the park to John Strickson, esq. of the city of London, which gentleman's father carried on a large trade as a draper, a profession this John some time followed ; his wife was Amye-Maria, daughter of ——— Sandford, a gentleman of Salop, nearly related to Sir Samuel Daniel, baronet ; they had issue two sons, Thomas, who was educated in the university of Oxford, and died a bachelor ; and Arthur, an entering clerk of the customs, or some such office, in the city of London, living in 1764, but about that time died in a kind of frenzy or melancholy. The father lived at Shenstone park with good reputation and much hospitality ; but declining in his circumstances in the year 1723 or 1724, he sold his estate here, and something more at Upperstonhall, either to the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, or to the late Samuel Hill, esq. The said Mr. Strickson erected the mansion, of which to this time a good part now remains, removing the old materials from the house towards Little Hay gate, called the Lodge, to the site on which stands the present mansion ; he likewise built the large seat on the right hand as we enter the church, and the vault under it for his own burial-place ; but having suffered much in the South-Sea scheme, his misfortunes forced him hence ; and this vault was used first for the interment of lady Elizabeth Hill, and after of her husband Samuel Hill, esq.

* Son of J. Head, of London, by his wife, a daughter of Edward Lake.

We have the following account of this family : that in the year 1726-7, January 20, Rowland Hill, esq. was created a baronet by his majesty king George I. Of this ancient family of Hull, or Hill, of Court-hill, Wlonkeslowe, Blore, Buntingfdale, Malpafs, Souldon, and Bleachley, was Hull, father of Hull or Hill, of Hill and Wlonkeslaw in Salop, esq. living in the reign of Edward I. or Edward II. married Eleanor, daughter and coheir of Hugh de Wlonkeslaw, esq. and had issue William, living in the reign of king Richard II. whose son and heir was Geoffry Hill, in the reign of Henry IV. who married daughter of ——— Warren, lord of Ightfield in Salop, and by her had a son, Humphry, living in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI. He, by Anne, daughter and heir of John Bird, of Charlton, esq. niece and heir of David de Malpafs, had three sons; 1, William, ancestor to the Hills of Court-hill, Blore, Wlonkeslaw, and Buntingfdale; 2, Ralph, of whom presently; 3, Thomas of Malpafs and Hodnet, whose issue male failed in Sir Rowland Hill, knight. We meet with Thomas Hill *, esq. lord mayor of London in 1485, who caused the conduit in Gracechurch-street to be erected at his own expence. In 1549, or 1550, Sir Rowland, mercer, was lord-mayor of that city, son of Thomas Hill of Hodnet, who bore arms, viz. two Barrs Gemelles, Gules; on a canton, Sable, three pheons, Argent, between them a chevron, and on it two estoiles, Argent.

His lady gave ten pounds towards erecting the offices at Guildhall †. This Sir Rowland, one of the richest and most considerable merchants of his time, did great acts of generosity, was an eminent benefactor to the public, founded Drayton and other free-schools, built Stoke and Hodnet churches, at which last

* Stowe's Survey of London.

† Stowe.

mentioned place he was born. His wealth increased his goodness, as well as his honour; for, being sensible from whose blessing he received his estate, he made the most grateful returns, by erecting some lasting monuments to the glory of God. He gave 600*l.* to Christ's Hospital in London; and at his death forgave all his tenants in his manors of Aldersey and Sponeley, in the county of Salop, a year's rent, and further enjoined his heirs to make them leases for twenty-one years for two years rent; moreover, he made several causeways for man and horse; four bridges, of which two of stone, Alcham and Terne, of eighteen arches each, for the safe passage of travellers and carriages, which were in those days looked upon as great instances of charity, and beneficial to mankind. He was buried in St. Mary Woolchurch, Walbrook-ward, London, with the following inscription over him:

A friend to virtue,
A lover of learning,
A foe to vice,
A vehement corrector,
A prudent person.
All truth supporting,
A citizen sage,

And worthy counsellor;
A lover of wisdom,
Of justice a furtherer:
Lo! here his corpse lyeth;
Sir Rowland Hill by name,
Of London late Lord Mayor,
And Alderman of fame.

He left his large acquisitions to his four sisters and coheirs, who were, 1, Agnes, wife of J. Cooper, esq.; 2, Joan, married to George Dormaine, esq. from whom are the families of Cholmley and Leech; 3, Jane, wife of George Greatwood, esq. from which family came the Levisons of Woolverhampton in Staffordshire, and the Corbets of Stoke, baronets; 4, Elizabeth, wife of John Barker, esq. of whom came the Leighs, barons of Stoneley in Warwickshire. We are told, in respect of the last family, that

Thomas

Thomas Leigh, son of Roger, of Wellington in Salop, descended of the Leighs, of High Leigh in Cheshire, bred up under Sir Rowland Hill, became at length, for his skill and diligence, his factor beyond sea, and underwent that trust so well, that Sir Rowland, having no child, matched his niece, whom he much affected, to him, viz. Alice, daughter of John Barker, of Hamon in Salop, upon whose issue he bestowed the greatest part of his estate. This gentleman became very opulent, and, being a knight, was lord mayor of London, 1585, 1 Eliz. Dying 14 Eliz. he left by the said Alice three sons, Rowland, Thomas, and William; the eldest of which was well provided for by Sir Rowland Hill, his godfather, in Gloucestershire, at Longborough, or thereabouts. Thomas remained at Stoneley; the third son settled at Newnham in Warwickshire; and both had ample possessions settled upon them by their father and mother, she being joint purchaser in all, and lived at Stoneley to a very great age, dying in January 1603, having seen her children's children of the fourth generation, of which Sir Thomas was created a baronet by king Charles I.

This lady, Alice Leigh, 19 queen Elizabeth, founded an hospital for ten poor persons, five men, and five women, all of them to be unmarried persons, and nominated by her; but after her decease, by Sir Thomas Leigh her son, during his life, and his heirs for ever; to whose maintenance she charged 29l. per annum. to be paid out of Milbourn Grange, situate in the same parish of Stoneley, where the hospital was built, viz. 52s. to each of the poor people at the feast of St. John Baptist, St. Michael, the Nativity of our Lord, and the Annunciation of our Lady, by even portions; six shillings and eight-pence yearly to the churchwardens for the time being, who were appointed supervisors of the said poor people, as to their orderly coming to
church

church every Sunday and Holy-day, except there were urgent cause to the contrary: ten shillings yearly to the mayor of Coventry for the time being, whom she also appointed to see to the performance thereof; ten shillings yearly towards repairing the church; twenty-two shillings and eight-pence to a minister to preach four sermons there yearly; all which queen Elizabeth by her letters patent (bearing date the 28th of June in the 29th year of her reign) confirmed.

Sir Rowland Hill, knight, and Sir Thomas Leigh, knight, aldermen of London, bought Stoneley abbey, and some of its lands, of William Cavendish, esq. of Trimley St. Martyn, in the county of Suffolk; and on the division of their purchases (3 Elizabeth) Sir Thomas Leigh had Stoneley abbey.

We return now to Ralph, second son of Humphry Hill, esq. who married —— daughter of Thomas Green, esq. of Norton, by whom he had two sons; 1, William, ancestor to the Hills of Soulton and Blechley; 2, Humphry, of Adderley, or Alderfey, esq. who, by Alice his wife, daughter of —— Bulkley of Stanlow, had three sons, Rowland of Hawkstone; Thomas, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Dantsey, esq. of the county of Lancaster, but died issueless; and Robert, seated at Adderley, who left a son, Humphry Hill, esq.

Rowland Hill, of Hawkston, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Dycher, esq. of Muckleston in Salop, and had issue by her a Sir Rowland, who married Elizabeth, daughter of William Jolliffe, of Leek in Staffordshire, and had issue Rowland Hill, of Hawkstone, esq. a gentleman remarkable for his great wisdom, piety, and charity; he suffered much in the civil wars, on his coming to the relief of his father, whom the Parliamentarians had detained prisoner in the castle near Hawkstone; his wife was Margaret, daughter of Richard Whitehall, of Whitchurch

church in Salop, by whom he had seven sons and seven daughters, of which Rowland the eldest son died unmarried; the second son was the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, LL.D. who died unmarried at Richmond in Surrey, July 11, 1727, and was carried to Hodnet in Salop, and there buried. In the reign of king William III. he was envoy extraordinary to the court of Brussels; and, in the same reign, and in queen Anne's, to the courts of Turin, and all the other Italian princes, except to the Roman pontiff. In the time of king William III. he was pay-master of the army in Flanders, where, by his remarkable, punctual, and just dealings, he acquired so great credit, as to be able by it to subsist the armies there, when remittances of money came too slow from England for that purpose. This great service gained him the favour of the king his master, who soon after the peace appointed him one of the lords commissioners for executing the high office of lord high treasurer of England. His merit also recommended him to the favour of queen Anne, who, soon after her accession to the throne, appointed him one of the council to his royal highness prince George of Denmark, as lord high admiral of this kingdom; and in the year 1705 sent him to the duke of Savoy, a prince noted for his policy, with whom he so prevailed as to bring him into the grand alliance. In the reign of George I. he retired from all civil employment, and became fellow of Eton college, near Windsor, which he held to the time of his death. He was a statesman of great abilities, and of eminent integrity, a man of general knowledge, well known for an exceeding fine address; he added much to his own private estate, and fortune of itself considerable, great part of which he gave among his relations in his life-time, and the remainder at his death. He augmented many poor livings, and was a considerable benefactor to St. John's college, Cambridge, where he
was

was educated, and was an ornament to that society. He left them five rectories, Ditchingham, South and North Lopham united, the two Forncetts united, Sturstone, and Aldborough. His heirs are always to present to those benefices, but obliged to make choice of a fellow of that house. He subscribed largely to works of charity, and did a great many private ones in a wise and well chosen manner. Not long before his decease, by the favour of king George I. in the 13th year of his reign, he obtained for his family this creation to the dignity of a baronet of this kingdom in the person of his nephew and heir at law, Rowland Hill, of Hawkstone, esq. and his heirs male; in default of such issue, to Samuel Hill, his nephew, of Shenstone Park, esq. in Staffordshire, and his heirs male; in default to his nephew, Thomas Hill, of Terne Hall in Salop, with the same proviso; remainder to the reverend Rowland Hill, rector of Forncett in Norfolk, and his male heirs. This gentleman was afterwards rector of Hodnet in Salop, and died unmarried upon the 11th of July, 1733.

John Hill, of Lieteich or Lutwich, third son of Rowland Hill by Margaret Whitehall, married —— daughter of Stubbs, esq. of Shaw in Staffordshire, and by her had issue one son, Sir Rowland, who was created baronet, Janury 20, 1726-7, and five daughters; 1, Margaret, wife of Richard Brooke, of Norton in Cheshire, eldest son of Sir Thomas Brooke, baronet, who left by her Sir Richard Brooke, baronet; 2, Eleanor married to Borlace Wingfield, of Preston in Salop, esq. and hath issue Rowland, if no other son, and three daughters. Rowland Wingfield was a fellow-commoner of Oriel college, Oxford, 1750, and hath married daughter of Sir Walter Wagstaff Bagot, of Blythfield, baronet, and sister of Sir William Bagot, baronet: his residence is at Shrewsbury. John Hill, esq. and Margaret

Whitehall had three other daughters. Sir Rowland Hill, baronet, 1732, was appointed high-sheriff for the county of Salop; and, June 2, his marriage was inserted in the public papers, in these words, "On June 2, 1732, Sir Rowland Hill, baronet, a young gentleman of 8000*l.* per annum, was married to Miss Jane Broughton, daughter of the late Sir Bryan Broughton, baronet, of Broughton in Staffordshire, and sister of the present Sir Bryan Broughton." By her he had issue two sons, Richard, and Rowland; and two daughters, Jane, and Elizabeth. His arms are, quarterly, 1, Ermine, on a fess, Sable, a castle triple towered, Argent, *Hill*; 2, Sable, a Lion rampant crowned, Or, between three crosses, pattée fitchée, Argent, *Wlonkeflaw*; 3, Per pale, Or, and Argent, an Eagle displayed, Sable, *Bird*; 4, Gules, a chevron between three pheons, Argent, *Malpafs*; Crest, on a wreath a castle with five towers, Argent; over it a garland of laurel, proper. His seat is at Hawkstone near Hodnet.

Of Sir Rowland Hill, knight, citizen of London, and afterwards lord-mayor, we find further, that he had a grant from the Crown of the manor of Newnham Regis in Warwickshire, on the attainder of John Dudley, the potent duke of Northumberland, and earl of Warwick, in the 1st year of queen Mary, whose it was from the 7th year of the reign of king Edward VI. The same Sir Rowland had that part of Leek Wotton manor in Warwickshire called by the name of the Cross Grange, which before the Dissolution belonged to the monks of Kenilworth, with the church, both which he passed over to Sir Thomas Leigh, with his niece Alice Barker, in marriage. The same Sir Rowland, and Sir Thomas, purchased Dunchurch manor in Warwickshire, 1 and 2 Philip and Mary; which, on a division

sion of their purchases, were allotted to Sir Thomas Leigh. In the same manner went the estates there, which, before the Dissolution, were the possessions of Pipewell abbey.

One of the daughters of Rowland Hill, esq. and Margaret Whitehall married — Barbour, esq. a gentleman seated near Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, who had issue by her a son Samuel, and one daughter. The ancestors of — Barbour were settled at Flashenbrook in Staffordshire, which manor was in the king's hands 20 William I. by the name of Fletesbroc, or, as others, in the bishop's. 24 Edward I. Richard de Puisdon or Puifdon owned it, and left a son Jordan, in whose line it continued till the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. when one Brown, of the family or retinue of Humphry Stafford duke of Buckingham, or of Henry his grandson (lineally descended from the noble family of Bagot, by Melicent, heiress of Robert lord Stafford in the time of king John), had it in marriage with the heiress of the Jordans, as they were then called, but originally Puifdons, and changed his name to that of Barbor, or Barbour. This Thomas Barbor * had issue Robert, living 21 Henry VIII. whose son was John, father of John Barbor, esq. of Flashbroke in Staffordshire, 5 and 8 Elizabeth, and of George; which George had a son Nicholas, 19 Elizabeth, father of Richard Barbour, gent. who had issue a daughter named Anne, married to Richard Weston, esq. of Rugeley, of a London family, and of which two were knights at the same time; and George, who, by Mary his wife, daughter of John Rugeley, of Dunston and Coventry, had a son Leicester, who accepted of a captain's commission from the Parliament party, and in other respects took an active part against his sovereign

* Living 12 Henry VI.

king Charles I. Leicester married Mary, daughter of Thomas Adeshead, of Milwich, and had by her Richard, living in the reign of Charles II. or James II. and nine other children. This Leicester Barbour, or a son of that name, was resident at Tamworth in 1673. John Barbour, of Flashbroke, elder brother of George, had two sons, Edward, and John. Edward had issue Dorothy, his only daughter and heir, married to Gerard Whorwood, esq. of Stourton castle in Staffordshire, son and heir of Sir Thomas Whorwood, knight, (who died 14 James I.), whose wife was Elizabeth, a natural daughter of Sir John Sutton, knight of the garter, and baron of Dudley castle; which Gerard (aged 40 years, 14 James I.) was seised of the manors of Kinfare and the castle, Stourton, Kingsley, Brome, Whorwood, alias Compton Hallows, in Staffordshire; Alvely in Salop; Kingford in Worcestershire; and of divers lands in Halscote, Tettenhall, Dewsfley, Compton, Sedgeley, Areley, and Le Hoo, in the county of Stafford.

This Edward Barbour, upon the payment of a subsidy granted by the laity in parliament to the queen, 18 Eliz. was rated at ten pounds, and (over and above) found two light horsemen for her majesty's army; he was living in 1583.

John, younger brother of Edward Barbour, married Anne, daughter of John Etwell, esq. and had by her John, who took to wife Dorothy, daughter of William Scott, esq. and had issue by her three sons; John, aged 9, 1664, living in 1673, and then has the title of Esquire; 2, Edward; 3, Leicester.

These families made some considerable figure by their service and attendance upon Robert Dudley earl of Leicester, the favourite of queen Elizabeth, and afterwards of his countess, who lived to a great age at her manor of Drayton-Basset, near Tamworth.

The

The last mentioned John Barbour bore for his coat of arms, Gules, three mullets, Argent, a bordure Ermine. The Flashenbrook family bore, Sable, three mullets engrailed, Argent; some of them added a dexter canton, Or.

Samuel, son of ——— Barbour, by the daughter of Rowland Hill, esq. and Margaret his wife, was born about 1690 or 1691, near Uttoxeter, upon an estate * that was his family inheritance; and was soon taken into the peculiar protection of his uncle, the honourable and reverend Richard Hill; and, when prepared under proper masters for the university, was sent to Cambridge, and entered in St. John's college, to which his uncle was so great a benefactor, and of which he himself had been a member; here he was soon taken notice of, as well for his good behaviour and regularity, as for a studious disposition, and a capacity fitted for any attainments; no pains were wanting to cultivate his genius, and the best of masters and tutors were chosen to instruct him in the sciences, in which he made great improvements. On his leaving the University, he was sent abroad to visit the most polite courts of Europe, under the powerful recommendation of his great friend, who had lived there in a public character much esteemed, especially amongst the Italian princes.

After visiting the court at Turin, he went to Venice and Milan, places he was greatly delighted with, and from them to the other most remarkable cities of Italy. Among other things he was curious to view the classic ground, more particularly those parts of which those inimitable poets of the Augustan age, Horace and Virgil, treat in their immortal works. Of these, in his latter

* Flashbrook, as I am informed; though the Barbours had an estate, and upon it a good mansion at Chatbill in Staffordshire.

days, he spoke with a kind of transport to myself, and received the highest satisfaction in reflecting that he had seen and visited them at a time when his infirmities had vastly impaired his constitution, and rendered him almost insensible to any other enjoyment of life, or a plentiful fortune.

He proceeded to France, and after some years returned to England, with a large store of real knowledge, and without the vanity of most of our young English travellers; superior to their fopperies of dress, and all affectation; and withal confirmed in these sentiments, that the Church of this kingdom as by law established was the best constituted Church in the world, and that the Revolution principles were most for the interest of this nation; professing to the day of his death, that these principles tended most to the security both of the present generation, and of our posterity. Returning a most accomplished gentleman, he was introduced at court, and was most graciously received by his majesty king George I. who soon after conferred upon him the office of Latin Secretary, with a salary of 200*l.* per annum; also collector and transmitter of the state papers in both the secretaries of state's departments; for which he was supposed as well qualified as any gentleman in England; and in the execution of which office no man was disappointed, hereby justifying the good opinion that most discerning men entertained of him from his first appearance and conversation. Some years after, he resigned these, and was made register of the Navy, or register of the high court of Admiralty, and likewise register of the court of Delegates by letters patent, which he held till his decease. He was also in parliament, being elected one of the members for the city of Lichfield, but did not long sit there, resigning of his own accord and motion, as not agreeable to his natural temper, which

which could not away with the manner of speaking and transacting the public affairs in that honourable house. He afterwards supported Sir Rowland Hill, baronet, his cousin, when he stood candidate for the city of Lichfield, and was the principal means of his carrying his election, his personal interest and great character swaying much with the inhabitants of that place; and when Sir Lister Holt, baronet, of Aston Hall, near Birmingham, stood for the same city, he gave him his interest; as he did likewise to the late Sir Walter Wagstaff Bagot, of Blithfield, baronet, canvassing the county of Stafford in part with him, and procuring such votes for him and his friend as contributed, in a great degree, to their successful return in parliament. In the year 1741, he was one of the commissioners appointed by act of parliament to collect the land-tax in the city and county of Lichfield; as also for the counties of Stafford and Warwick, which the following year was to raise the sum of two millions thirty-eight thousand sixty-five pounds eleven shillings and five pence, out of which sum the city of Lichfield was to pay four hundred and twenty pounds nineteen shillings and four pence; nor was he omitted in the other acts of parliament or commissions for the service of the kingdom in either of the abovesaid counties, as long as his health allowed him to act in public, or his residence in England would admit of his executing those several offices.

In 1722 he purchased the lands belonging to Hales Place, so named from the owner, John Hales, clerk of the hanaper in the reign of queen Elizabeth, before called the Whitefriars monastery in the city of Coventry; Sir Edward Hales, baronet, having procured an act of parliament for that purpose, that the debts of Sir Christopher, his brother, might be paid off; these being passed over to John duke of Montague, were by him conveyed

to

to Samuel Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. which estates are yet in in his heirs.

Early in the reign of king George the Second, on the decease of his wife, he went abroad to Italy and France, and continued some years out of England, till time did in some sort mitigate his great grief for his loss. During his absence the Park House was rented by —— Snead, of Bishton in Staffordshire, esq. On his return home, though his table was the receptacle of men of learning and reputation, he led in general a retired and domestic life, setting himself to make great improvements in his land, which he advanced to a high state of culture. To effect this, he employed great numbers of poor herein, pursuing the advice of a great master*, who, treating of the nature of liberality, makes it twofold, and says, we oblige those who stand in need of our assistance, either from the advantage of labour or money; the latter is the easier way, especially where the benefactor is a person of good estate, but the bounty bestowed on labour and industry is the fairer and better of the two, the more honourable and better becoming a clear and generous mind, for though the will may be free enough in both, yet the one obligation is rather a debt to fortune, but the other to his virtue. By pecuniary distributions the fountain itself may be exhausted, and one such benevolence is destroyed by another; and, in the very act, we lose the means of obliging. Besides, the other is more extensive; more people, not to mention the present profits of exercise and health, being thereby rendered serviceable both to their families and the public.

Nor was this gentleman deficient in the other kind of liberality, seeing we could make it appear, that he found such oc-

* Cicero.

cations of assisting, and met with several objects of his bounty in this way, which he thought just and proper, either to help such as had opportunity to raise themselves and families in the world, by their application of mind and industry, to a reasonable good situation, or, in a method of true humanity and benevolence, to succour such as from unavoidable circumstances, though of ancient families, were in declining case; a sort of generosity that Tully himself thought equal, and in some instances allowable to be put in practice, only with choice, and within compass; otherwise gentlemen of property, great as Mr. Hill's was, might easily squander away their whole estates upon inconsiderate and ill-judged gratuities, which prudent men would term lightness, profusion, or excess.

It cannot be denied, that he might have some personal interest in view in the employment of the poor, viz. the improvement of lands; if so in any degree, it must be of no great weight, because, having no issue, he was sure the benefits accruing from them, by virtue of the entail on those very lands, would pass, as indeed they did, to the heir at law, with the many new buildings, raised at a vast expence, upon his farms in this parish; and with regard to the poor themselves, it was found by experience at his death, that his employing them had considerably eased the rates and taxes of the several places to which they belonged, but especially of Shenstone. Or if any such interest is objected as of moment, even this is a self-love by no means meriting dispraise, but useful in all the concerns of mankind; men being culpable only when they exceed the proper bounds, and thereby become obnoxious to avarice or any other species of ill. Such were his amusements at a time of life when he was unable to read, or enjoy the conversation of his friends. Some years before his death he was afflicted with a rheumatism, or a

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paralytic

paralytic complaint, in some measure occasioned by his continuing in marshy grounds or drains with his labourers; having likewise hurt his legs twice, he became utterly unable to walk; neither were the waters of the German Spa, those of Aix la Chapelle, and the pure air of South France, nor the English baths, all which he frequented, able to restore him. Being reduced to such circumstances, two gentlemen were appointed as companions, and to read to him, who were kept with him till his decease.

In religious duties he was very exact, setting an admirable example by his constant attendance upon the service of the church and its sacraments, and by his respectful behaviour to his minister, and the clergy in general. On the whole, we may term him a great and a very useful man. As to his political principles, Mr. Hill was a friend to the Revolution; revered the memory of the prince who delivered these kingdoms from Popery and Arbitrary Government, and was fond of the establishments made to secure the crown in the present royal family. As a scholar, he was well versed in Greek and Latin; Virgil and Horace of the Latin classics were favourites with him; but he most admired Sallust, for his nervous style and concise way of speaking. Of these authors especially he would frequently make large quotations, respecting what was read before him or discoursed of, even in the last six months of his life; and he well understood the French, Italian, and German languages; spoke well, and with propriety, on almost every subject, and would make many useful observations where the matter required it. Having, besides the advantage of considerable abilities, seen much of the polite and learned world; with a great memory and strong judgement, his mode of speaking was greatly instructive, commanding both respect and attention. He had,
a courtly

a courtly and fine manner of address, but could not away with or bear any thing of flattery ; as he was well read in mankind, he allowed greatly for all men who came far short of his own fine qualities, provided they were sincere and behaved with decorum. In his domestic character, of a good husband, an excellent master to his servants, a sincere friend and benefactor, persons that knew him of long time generally agree. That we may do this gentleman's memory strict justice, he is charged with many frailties, and who is free from them? Such were his haughtiness, reserve, and a disposition warm enough ; the last no question was natural to him, and the others might proceed from the manner of his education, and the great prospects he set out in life with. In person he was genteel, of a good stature, and rather full of flesh than otherwise, of a ruddy countenance, and was, as his form shewed, a man of considerable strength.

About the year 1721, the abovesaid Samuel Hill, esq. married lady Elizabeth Stanhope, second and younger daughter of Philip earl of Chesterfield, by lady Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of George Savil marquis of Halifax, by his second lady, Gertrude, daughter to the honourable William Pierpoint, esq. Lady Elizabeth Hill is to this day mentioned by all that knew her as a person of the greatest merit, whether considered in a religious or civil capacity. She was very affable to all, and of a most bountiful temper, all her aim appearing to be intended to render every one near her as happy as possible. She is described as abounding in charity and good works, as a support and blessing to the poor and distressed, whom she often personally visited, and was regardful of their complaints, never leaving them without such relief as she was capable of bestowing, being displeased if any object of compassion was concealed from her notice.

In the year 1727, she went to attend the coronation of king George the Second, and at London was taken ill of the small-pox, and died without issue, greatly regretted, upon the 24th day of November; one author * says, by mistake, upon the 14th of that month. The corpse, being put in a lead coffin, and over it one of wood, covered with fine black cloth, was carried to Shenstone, and interred in the vault belonging to the family at the Park, which, as we have already observed, was made by John Strickson, esq. for himself, but was never used till the remains of this excellent lady Hill were deposited in it, upon the 4th of December, 1727, as appears from the register-book. The inscription upon the coffin says, that she died 24th of November, at the age of 24 years.

Mr. Hill survived his wife many years, but never married again, dying issueless, upon the 21st day of February, 1758, and was buried upon Sunday the 26th, being then 67 years of age; his remains were deposited also near his lady's in the same vault.

For want of issue, the Park, Shenstone Hall, the manor of Sutton Madoc, in the county of Salop, a third part of Wrockwardine, of which Samuel Hill, esq. — Pemberton, or — Fludd, and Brook Forester of Wenlock, esqrs. were joint lords, an estate of value near the city of Coventry, the advowson of Shenstone church with the tithes, besides other lands, went, by the power of the entail made by the honourable and reverend Richard Hill, to Thomas Hill, of Terne, in Salop, esq. One estate, near Coventry, came to Sir Rowland Hill, of Hawkston, Salop, Baronet; and a third to Samuel Egerton, of Tatton Park in Cheshire, esq. but this last gentleman did not inherit from the entail, but as next heir to Samuel Hill, esq. who purchased it.

* Collins, in his Peerage;

After the death of this gentleman, Shenstone Park was leased by the present tenant for seven years, Abraham Hoskyns, esq. son of William Hoskyns, esq. of Stafford, which Abraham was an officer in the army in the reign of his late majesty king George II. and till he came to Shenstone Park, was settled in the neighbouring parish of Barr after he had disposed of his commission. He married Sarah, daughter of William Rowe, gent. of Birmingham, Warwickshire, by Elizabeth his wife, who is yet living at Shenstone Park, aged near 80. Abraham Hoskyns, esq. and Sarah his wife had issue William, who died at 17 years old in 1763; Abraham, aged 17 in 1768; and Elizabeth, aged 15, 1768. William Hoskyns of Stafford had a brother Richard, father of Abraham, an attorney at law in Burton upon Trent, in Staffordshire.

The reverend Rowland Woodward Hill, rector of Fornsett in Norfolk, was of St. John's college, Cambridge, where he took the degree of Master of Arts, and had his nomination of Fornsett's rectories, as united, from his own family, and afterwards of Hodnet in Salop. At his death, which happened in 1733, he left one hundred pounds yearly to the new Theatre at Cambridge; also one hundred pounds to poor clergymen's widows in the county of Salop. To this Rowland Hill, who died unmarried, was the title of Baronet limited. This gentleman, as I conjecture, was the second son of Thomas Harwood, by Margaret, daughter of Rowland Hill, of Hawkston, esq.

Thomas Hill, esq. took the name as Samuel his cousin german did, being before surnamed Harwood, of whose family we shall now proceed to treat.

John

John Harwood was a considerable tobacco and sugar merchant in the city of London, and was a great sufferer by the great fire which made such desolation in that city after the plague in the reign of king Charles II. yet had a good fortune left, especially in such effects as were providentially lodged in Shrewsbury and elsewhere. His son and heir was John, Doctor of Civil Law (of whom presently, who had a sister); and his younger son was Thomas, who married Margaret, daughter of Rowland Hill, esq. of Hawkstone in Salop, by Margaret, daughter of Richard Whitehall, of Whitchurch, esq. and had issue by her (who was sister of the honourable and reverend Richard Hill) two sons*, and two daughters, Martha and Anne. Martha was wife of Walter Gough, esq. of Oldfallings, near Wolverhampton in Staffordshire, an estate purchased by Henry Gough, esq. in the 6th year of the reign of James I. which Walter was son of Sir Henry, created a knight by king Charles II. and then was seated at Perry Hall in Barr parish, Staffordshire. Walter Gough, and Martha his wife, had issue four sons, Walter, Thomas, rector of Risby, Suffolk, who died January, 1786; Richard, an East India supercargo, lost in the Northampton Indiaman, and Henry; also daughters, of whom Martha, the third, married to John Fisher of Springfield, near Knoll in Warwickshire, esq. late high-sheriff for that county, who had by her a son, who died at the age of 20, and two daughters†. Henry, still living, was in the East-India company's service, but lately of Bushbury in Staffordshire, and unmarried. Walter, who died Oct. 4, 1773, one of his majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Stafford, who married twice; first to Mary, daughter of John Hunt, esq. of

* Thomas; and Rowland who was rector of Thornton in Cheshire, and died unmarried.

† One of these married ——— Moland, esq. and died, leaving issue by him four daughters. Her sister is still unmarried living at Springfield.

Sutton Cofield, and Winfom Green near Birmingham*, by whom he had 1. Walter, who died young; 2. Henry, educated at Repton school in Derbyshire, afterwards sent to the University of Oxford, and entered fellow commoner at Christchurch; he lost his life by a fall from his horse in hunting, November 25, 1769†; 3. John, who was a short time with a silk merchant in the city of Coventry, and on the decease of his brother Henry entered a gentleman commoner at Oxford, and succeeded to the estate on the death of his father‡; and two daughters, the eldest still living unmarried; the youngest married in 1772, Simon Oliver Taylor, esq. of Irtlingborough, in the county of Northampton, and died in 1773, in childbed of her first child. Walter Gough, esq. married, secondly, June 15, 1758, the relict of ——— Clopton, esq. daughter and coheir of ——— Brierley § of Handsworth in Staffordshire, esq. by whom he had no issue. Martha, wife of Walter Gough, sen. of Oldfallings, long survived her husband, to the month of May, 1768, being old and full of days, and then died much lamented, with the reputation of a very good and hospitable gentlewoman.

Another daughter of the said Martha by Walter Gough, was wife of Samuel Harwood, of Hagborne in Berkshire, and also of

* At this last place he had a good house, now belonging to his grandson John Gough, esq. of Perry Hall.

† He was on a visit with his friend the Rev. Mr. Vernon, of Hanbury in Worcestershire, and they went to dine with Mr. Ligon; in coming home in the evening, with two or three gentlemen in company, Mr. Gough's horse threw him and dislocated his neck, and he was found quite dead when the gentlemen returned from catching his horse.

‡ He married in 1779, Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Mitton, esq. of Shipton, Salop, by whom he had a son, John, born 1780, a daughter, 1781, and she died in child-bed of her third child, a daughter, May 3, 1783.

§ She died July, 1781. Her sister married ——— Sacheverel.

Shrewsbury,

Shrewsbury, eldest son of John, LL. D. of Doctors Commons; which John was elder brother of Thomas Harwood of Terne, father of Thomas Hill, esq. of Terne, 1768. Samuel and Anne had two sons, and three daughters ||; Samuel, Watkin who went abroad and was in the army; all unmarried. Samuel was of Christchurch college in Oxford, and, 1767, went to study physick at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, a young gentleman of merit, and married a daughter of Thomas Mitton; Anne, their mother, was living in 1768. The eldest sister of Anne, wife of Samuel Harwood, of Hagborn and Salop, was wife of Thomas Mitton, of Shipton in Salop, esq. and had issue a son, who married a daughter of Sir Henry Edwards, of Shrewsbury, bart. and hath issue other sons and daughters; the eldest of the latter was married to John Gough, esq. of Perry Hall.

Anne, second daughter of Thomas Harwood, of Terne, esq. by the daughter of Rowland Hill, of Hawkstone, esq. was wife of John Kynaston, esq. of Hordley in Salop, nearly related to John Kynaston, esq. who petitioned for the barony of Powis, and, after serving several times in parliament for the county of Salop, died in 1733, possessed of an estate of 3000l. yearly, which he left to Corbet Kynaston, esq. his son. John Kynaston and Anne his wife had issue two sons, Edward and Roger, also a daughter, Amie, who died unmarried. Edward was member in the two last parliaments for the county of Montgomery, and hath his seat at Hardwick in Salop. He married ———, daughter of ——— Floyde, esq. a great heiress, but hath yet no child by her. Roger, the second son, is a barrister at law, by a daughter of ——— Powel, esq. of Shrewsbury, hath issue three sons, John, Edward, and Roger; his wife died in 1766; and he in October 1768 was a widower, and died

* Anne, Mary, and Martha.

John

John Harwood*, LL.D. of Doctors Commons, elder brother of Thomas, father of the present Thomas Hill, of Terne, esq. was seated at Hagburn in Berks; and had issue, 1, Samuel, as before, living in 1760; 2, James, a clerk, rector of Cliff in Kent, and vicar of Dartford, who married a daughter of — Chafe, and hath children; 3, Edward, who, by a daughter of — Prince, esq. of the High Hall near Shrewsbury, had John, who died childless, Edward, and Simon, who married three wives; first, Ann Baftyne, relict of John Baftyne, coal-merchant in London, who died without issue; secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of — Hudson, of Shrewsbury; thirdly, Elizabeth, daughter of — Sewell, esq. collector of the customs in the port of Chester, yet living; but neither had issue by him. Edward, second son of Edward, was educated in St. John's college, Cambridge, and took the degree of M. A. was afterwards vicar of Erith in Kent, and removing thence had the rectory of Thornton in Cheshire. He married two wives, first, Theodosia, daughter of John Trevifa, esq. of Crocordon in Cornwall, by whom he had two sons, John and Edward, also one daughter, Mary. John died 1736-7, being then a lieutenant in his majesty's navy, unmarried; Edward, educated in Shrewsbury school, was thence sent to St. John's college in Cambridge, and afterwards elected fellow of Clare Hall in that University, where he took the degree of M. A. in 1759; made vicar of this parish of Shenstone; and January 7, 1768, married Anna Maria Foreman, only daughter of Otho Foreman, of London, by Mary his wife, daughter of — Stephenson †, esq. of Northwich in Cheshire, collector of the salt duties there. Mary married, 1760, to James Folliott,

* A sister of his was married to — Jerney, esq. who had by her a daughter, living and unmarried in 1768.

† He came out of the North of England, and had been a considerable merchant.

merchant in Chester, second son of James Folliott, esq. who served at the siege of Londonderry, in Ireland, in the reign of king William III; and is yet living, in October 1768, being on half-pay, and 80 years old. James Folliott and Mary Harwood had issue William Harwood Folliott, born 1761; and Theodosia, born 1762, who died in 1768; Mary, wife of James Folliott, merchant, deceased 1764. Edward Harwood, rector of Thornton, married, secondly, in the year 1738, to Elizabeth, relict of John (or Peter) Trevisa, captain in the African Company's service, who died on the coast of Guinea, leaving Elizabeth, born in 1726, living in 1768, in Chester; which Elizabeth, the widow, was daughter of John Grove, gent. of Okeley-green in the parish of Bray, Berks, and yet survives her second husband, the Reverend Edward Harwood, who died in 1760, without issue from his second marriage. Captain John Trevisa abovesaid was brother to Theodosia, first wife of the Reverend Edward Harwood.

Ralph, fourth son of Edward Harwood, married to ——— daughter of ——— at Molde in Flintshire, and is since dead; but his widow survives; and a daughter of theirs was married in 1768.

Thomas Hill, son of Thomas Harwood, esq. by the sister of the Hon. and Rev. Richard Hill, was early taken into the particular protection of his uncle, who took all possible care to have him educated as Samuel his cousin was, settled in the same manner a fortune upon him, and entailed Shenstone Park with other estates of great value upon him, which accordingly he became possessed of upon the decease of Samuel Hill, esq. in 1758. This gentleman and his issue male are in the entail of the dignity of a baronet of Great Britain, on decease of such issue of the present Sir Rowland Hill, bart. He hath married two wives; first, ——— daughter of Sir Littleton Powis, knight, many
years

years one of the Justices of the Court of King's Bench to his majesty king George I. till, becoming superannuated, he had his *quietus*, with the grant of a considerable pension from the crown, and then retiring into the country, died March 16, 1732, at his own seat in the county of Salop. By this lady Mr. Hill had Thomas, who died young; a daughter, married to Burton, esq. of Altham, or Longnore, near Shrewsbury, who are both living, and have children; also Margaret, married to Bennet Sherard *, baron Le Trim in Ireland, earl of Harborough in England, by whom she had issue twins, a son, lord Sherard, and daughter, which, with the lady herself, died soon after the birth, 1767, as did the son about a year after. Thomas Hill, esq. married, secondly, to Susanna Maria, eldest of the four daughters and coheirs of the honourable William Noel, who, being educated to the law, became one of the king's counsel, and, in 1741, member of parliament for the borough of Stamford in Lincolnshire, also recorder of that corporation, after made chief justice of Chester, and at length made one of his majesty's justices of the Common Pleas; since deceased. He was also in parliament in 1733, but absent on the circuit when the noted bill for the excise was carried in the house. He was second and youngest son of Sir John Noel, baronet, by Mary daughter and coheir of Sir John Clobery, of Winchester, baronet. Which Sir John Noel was son of Sir William, by Margaret, daughter of John, lord Lovelace, of Hurley in Berks, son of Verney Noel, created a baronet, 12 Charles II. by Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Wolstan Dixie, of Bosworth in Leicestershire, knight, and was descended of the same family with the parliamentary barons of Hildcot in Staffordshire; the viscount Wentworth of Nettlestead, and the earl of Gainsborough; all

* Elder brother to the present earl. He died in 1770.

originally of Ellen hall in Staffordshire, and whose ancestor was one of the adventurers of William the First, king of England. Thomas Hill, esq. and Sufanna Maria, daughter of the honourable judge Noel, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Trollop, of Cafewick in Lincolnshire, bart. had issue two sons, Samuel and Noel; and two daughters Sufanna Maria, who died 1761-2, unmarried, and Mary who was married to the late Sir Bryan Broughton Delves, bart. from whom she received a large addition of fortune by his last will; this lady is living and unmarried*; she had no issue by him. Samuel was, with his brother, under the tuition of the Reverend Mr. Fletcher, who was also their private tutor when they were sent to the university of Cambridge, where they were both entered fellow-commoners of St. John's college, and went with one or both of them on their travels; whether Samuel had an honorary degree in Cambridge I am not informed, but conjecture such an one was conferred upon him; being taken ill of a fever, he died soon after, in the year 1766, unmarried, to the great regret of his family, at the age of 22 years or thereabouts, possessed of Shenstone Park, which his father had conveyed to him. Noel Hill, esq. was his heir to the Shenstone estates, which, besides other lands, consists of the Old Hall, the Park, the advowson of the church, and the tythes. He was as above said with his brother at the University, and at the time of Samuel's decease in Scotland pursuing his studies. He took the degree of Master of Arts in Cambridge, and performed regularly the exercises requisite for it. In the year 1768 his father, who is advanced in years, declining any farther attendance on parliament, he was chosen in his place, with lord Clive, for the town of Shrewsbury.

* In 1769 she married to John Elrington, esq.

In the month of October, 1768, Thomas Hill, esq. of Cleveland-court, St. James's, was living, and a widower, aged about 77; and Noel Hill, esq. member of parliament for Shrewsbury, his only son, aged 23, a young gentleman of whom not only his family and friends have great expectations, but also his country, from his known abilities and nobleness of nature. In 1768 he married —, daughter of Henry Vernon, esq. of Hilton in Staffordshire, deceased, by lady — Wentworth, daughter of the earl of Stafford, and has issue a daughter, born October 4, 1769.

Sir Rowland Hill, only son of John Hill, esq. of Lutwich in the county of Salop (third son of Rowland Hill of Hawkstone, by Margaret Whitehall, by — daughter of — Stubbs, of Shaw in Staffordshire), was created a baronet * by king George II. out of his regard to the many services done this kingdom by the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, his uncle. In the year 1732 it was publicly said, that this Sir Rowland Hill was in possession of estates valued at almost eight thousand pounds per annum; which I the rather observe here to shew how great a fortune the said Richard Hill must have had or acquired to raise so many of his family; as Sir Rowland Hill, the late Samuel Hill of Shenstone Park, Thomas Hill of Terne, and the Reverend Rowland Woodward Hill. Sir Rowland † Hill, Baronet, in the month of June, 1732, married Jane, eldest of the two daughters of Sir Bryan Broughton, bart. (descended of the ancient family of Broughton who were seated at Longdon, near Lichfield in Staffordshire), by his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Delves, of Doddington in Cheshire, bart. by his first lady, Jane, daughter of Sir Richard

* January 20, 1726-7.

† High Sheriff of Salop for the year 1732.

Knightley,

Knightley, of Fawesley in Northamptonshire, who was Knight of the Bath, with which Jane Broughton Sir Rowland had a fortune of thirty thousand pounds; they have issue several children, both sons and daughters.

To conclude what we have to say further of the family of Thomas Hill, esq. now of Terne, we find, on stricter observation, a knight, Sir Edward Harwood, from whom came John, who married a daughter of —— Allen, a merchant in London, and left three sons, viz. Sir Edward, knight, a colonel in the guards; 2, ——, a commodore; 3, John Harwood, a merchant of London, and after of Shrewsbury, who married Martha, daughter of Edward Moreton, esq. of Shropshire, and left three sons and four daughters; John, Thomas, Edward, Martha, Anne, Mary, and Abigail. John was LL.D. of Doctors Commons, as afore said, who married Anne, daughter of Bulteel, a Spanish merchant, and had issue by her only two sons, and one daughter, Anne; which shews the information we received of his having a third son, Edward, was a mistake, seeing he had only a son Samuel and James, with Anne, a daughter. Thomas was father of Thomas Hill, esq. of Terne, in October, 1768; of Rowland, Martha, and Anne, of all whom we have already treated. Edward, the brother, and not the son, of John, LL.D. married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Hayes, esq. who resided near Shrewsbury, and left issue John, Edward, Samuel, Ralph, Elizabeth, and Mary. John had a daughter, who died young; Edward was rector of Thornton, and died 1760; Samuel died a bachelor; Simon died in 1767, and married as before; Ralph had a daughter, who, in 1768, married Beoley, of Mold in Flintshire. Ralph Harwood's widow was living in November, 1768. Elizabeth was married to Edward Burroughs, and is lately dead; this Elizabeth was daughter

ter of Edward Harwood by Elizabeth Hayes ; and Mary her sister married Bartholomew Greenwood, esq. Martha, eldest daughter of John Harwood of Terne, married Simon Hanmer, of Kennet in Salop, esq. ; Anne married ——— Curtis, esq. eldest son of Sir George Curtis, bart. ; Mary died, unmarried, at Shrewsbury ; Abigail married John Congreve, esq. of Stretton in Staffordshire, of whom came the Reverend Mr. Congreve of Leacroft Hall, near Cannock, and colonel Congreve ; a family noted for having estates in this county from the Conquest.

The park, and lands about it, which are of large circuit (three miles or more), claim a discharge of tythes. As to the rectorial or great tythes, they belong to Noel Hill, esq. whose property these lands are, except such as came to Samuel Egerton, esq. Of these, therefore, we need say little, as being in the hands of their own tenants ; yet it may not be amiss to observe, that Mr. Brandreth often regretted his incapacity to give them up to the church, upon family accounts, when the tythes were in no case to be compared to the present value of them. What he could properly spare he did, giving the minister a yearly present of ten guineas, besides what was bestowed by way of gratuity from the gentlemen who possessed the lands belonging to the two parks. Neither may we omit to remark, that the late Samuel Hill, esq. and the present tenants Abraham Hoskyns, esq. and Mr. Elde, have never failed in extending the same kindness to the vicar. But, as objections are made by others who hold part of the park lands, we shall proceed to observe, that these tenants plead a freedom from the payment of small tythes, or those termed vicarial, by a modus of one shilling and ten pence for the whole park, or some such trifling sum. On this subject, therefore, we affirm with persons most learned in the laws of
this

this kingdom, and who understand its constitution, that what we call time of memory is reckoned from the reign of Richard the First; and any custom may be destroyed by evidence of its non-existence in any part of the long period from his days to the present. Wherefore as the modus or real composition is supposed to have been a just and equal contract, or in other words, the full value of the tythes at the time of making such agreement, it is a given rule and certain, “If the modus is so much as to exceed the value of the tythes in the time of king Richard I. this modus is *felo de se* (destroys itself); for as it would be destroyed by any direct evidence to prove its non-existence at any time since that reign, so also it is destroyed by carrying in itself such internal evidence of a much later origin;” and it is not equal and fit that where such modus * does in no sense come to the value of the tythes of perhaps the poorest tenant within the compass of the park, it should destroy itself, or be of no effect? Let every unprejudiced person consider and determine whether laws should not be founded upon the principles of reason, and then we think they may possibly join us in opinion.

With regard to the vicarage house and glebe, these pay no tythes to the rector, if held by the vicar or curate, nor *vice versa*. It is termed prescription to be discharged of them, and to pay no compensation for them, because of the axiom †, “that a church pays not tenths to the church;” but these kind of privileges are personal both to king and clergy, for their tenant or lessee must pay tythes of the same lands, though in their own occupation they are not tytheable.

* For the whole.

† Ecclesia decimas non solvit ecclesiæ.

In this parish, either at Wood-end or at Shenstone, hath sometime resided a good family named *Colyere*, the last surviving heir of which is Mrs. Graciana Colyere, living here in November 1768 *.

That the Colyeres were of note, we have an opportunity of shewing from accounts well authenticated, and which we will lay before the reader, especially as a well-known Antiquary † affirms as follows :

“ Mr. James Colyere owns Darlaston in Staffordshire, whose grandfather was first a taylor, then a draper, and last of all a wool-stapler, by which he got so much money as to purchase this manor, almost all stone, a pretty market town, and a thoroughfare to London ; also a goodly farm one mile from Trent Southwards, and two miles from Stone, being a grange belonging to the abbey of Cumbermere in Cheshire,” a religious house founded in 1134, 35 Henry I. for white monks. This was called Earl’s Hyde, but now commonly Yarlet ‡, being anciently the property of Roger earl of Montgomery, and Belesme in Normandy, baron of Chichester, earl of Arundel and Salop in England, containing one hide of land, which this lord gave to that abbey soon after the Conquest ; the date of the foundation of Cumbermere shews a mistake. Again, he says, “ Darlaston belonged, in the reign of king William the First, to the abbey of Burton upon Trent. Jeffry the abbot passed it to Ormus de Guidon, who, by a daughter of Nicholas de Beauchamp, sheriff of this county, had a son Robert, father of Aliva, wife of Engenulph de Gresley, who had Hawis de Darlaston, wife of Henry de Verdon (t. Edward II.). In the reign of Henry VIII. James Colyere bought it and Earl’s Hyde grange,

* And in 1774. EDITOR.

† Erdswick.

‡ An obvious corruption of *Yearl Yde*.

which had been Roger de Montgomery's, but was given by Robert de Baskerville, and confirmed by Hugh Lacy, to the aforefaid abbey, 50 Henry III.

It is certainly no objection to the character of this family, that trade was their advancement, and we do not find any thing unworthy or vile laid to the charge of Mr. James Colyere; we may, therefore, justly suppose him to have been a person of fortune, or at least a man of great industry and integrity in his dealings with mankind, else it seems very probable this writer would not have failed to have transmitted a worse character to posterity than to note only the low condition of a taylor, from whence he rose suddenly to great fortune. We must also observe, that this same gentleman hath been already charged with reporting idle stories, or taking fabulous tales upon trust.

Another gentleman *, speaking of those who had the church lands, names Colyere as one whose family did not prosper on account of such purchase or possessions; but such objections are above our knowledge to answer with satisfaction; nor do we choose to say any thing of such matters, as if judgements overtook all that had to do with the dissolved abbey lands; but it would, however, be a christian office to restore so much as would decently support the ministers in all places where they have not a proper maintainance, a circumstance that is generally complained of, but without any hopes of redress.

One account of the COLYARES of Darlaston.

James Colyare, of Darlaston, esq. had Robert (living in 1583), who married Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Venables, of Kinderton in Cheshire, a family ennobled by Hugh de Lupus de

* Degge.

Abrincis, earl of Chester, in whose parliament they sat, by authority from king William I. till the county palatine was annexed to the crown by king Henry III. in 1238. Gilbert Venables, baron of Kinderton, held of Hugh, earl of Chester *, the lordships of Eccleston, Aldburg, Torporley, Wettenhall, Herford, Lyme, Lee, Wymundham, Brereton, in which were two hydes geldable Cimbretton, Daneport, Wittune, and Blackenhale; and in the account of fees belonging to the earldom of Chester †, 37 Henry III. as taken by Alan lord le Zouch, the chief justice, we find a Roger de Venables who held ten knights fees of it. In 1762 George Venables Vernon, of the same descent, was created baron Vernon, of Kinderton in Cheshire, yet living at Sudbury in Derbyshire. Robert Colyere and Agnes Venables had issue James, Christopher, Richard, Thurstan, and Robert; also seven daughters, Elizabeth, Margaret, Isabel, Cecily, Lettice, Mary, and Grace. Of these Elizabeth was wife of James Scrimshire, of Norbury in Staffordshire, esq. second son of John Scrimshire, by Dorothy daughter of John Talbot of Grafton, descended lineally from Sir Gilbert, who was a knight banneret, knight of the garter, governor of Calais, third son of John, second earl of Shrewsbury of that name, in whom were the baronies of Talbot of Castle Goodrich, Strange of Blackmere, Furnival, Falconbridge, Lovetot; the earldoms of Waterford, Wexford, and Valence, with the barony of Dungarvon in Ireland, besides other honours. James and Elizabeth Colyere, of Scrimshire, were ancestors of the Norbury family.

Robert Colyere, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, had ‡ a coat of arms granted or confirmed, viz. Argent on a chevron Azure,

* Lib. de Domeſday.

† Lib. Rubens in Saccario.

‡ Arma conceſſa Roberto Colyar de Darlaſton, per literas pat. anno primo Elizabethæ reginæ, per Gul. Herveſey tunc Clarentieux regem armorum, “*Morus dimidiatus Aſſyrii, coloris dextrâ tenens ramunculum quercinum, aurium annulis per utrumque aureis,*” in alluſion it ſhould ſeem to his name, quali *Coal ear*, i. e. *Black ear*.

three oakflips, acorns Or between three demy unicorns curreant, Gules; Crest, on a wreath a demy Blackmoor holding an oak flip in his right hand Arg. acorns, Or. But a much more exact descent of this family with that of the Doryngton or Dodingtons, was lately in the hands of Mrs. Gratiana Colyere, which we also give with some additions.

Descent of the DODYNGTONS, with another Account of the COLYER family*.

John de Dorrington had issue William, who had a son Roger, father of William, whose son and heir was Philip Doryngton, who had Thomas de Dodington (8 Hen. V.), in the county of Somerset. William, father of Philip, by deed confirmed to Nicholas Fitz Roger de Cantoe, for his homage and service, all that land lying in Barnardsworth, in the manor of Doddeton, which William his grandfather held, to have and to hold to him and his heirs, of William de Doddeton and his heirs, with all rights, liberties, and customs, as his grandfather William had and held those lands. Thomas, as above, (living in the reign of Richard II. and 8 Henry V.) married two wives; 1, Beatrix, daughter of ——— Bachelor; 2, Joan ———, of whom presently. By the first he had issue John, his son and heir (8 Henry V.), who, by Mary, daughter of Payn de Hutton, had issue John. He, by Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Oliver Hufsey, had, 1. Richard, 2. John, 3. Thomas, 4. William, which two last died issueless. Richard, by Elizabeth

* Hoc stemma præclaræ et antiquæ familiæ Coleiorum de Darlaston, in comitatu Staff. eos deducens ab eorum adventu in Angliam qui fuit tempore Hen. VI. et addenda unâ cum lineâ vetusta familia de Dodyngton, alias Doryngton, quantum fieri possit. Ex evidentia Fran. Colyer, de Darlaston, regisque archivis diligentia ac fide collectum est verbatim a stemmate.

daughter

daughter and coheir of John Leigh, esq. had one son John, also a second son Ægidius, and two daughters, Jane and Joanna. John married Thomafyne, daughter of Robert Duland of Devonshire. Thomas de Dodyngton abovesaid, by Joan * his second wife, daughter and heir of John Guphay de Woodland, in the parish of Mere, had Philip, who had issue John de Dodyngton, of Woodland in Wilts, father of Philip, who marrying Joan, daughter and heir of John Hugyns, had William Dodyngton, who married two wives; 1. Jane, daughter of ——— Poyntz; 2. ———, daughter of ——— Halfewell, of Somersetshire; but read of no child he had by either.

We return now to Sir John, second son of John Dodington and Elizabeth Hufley, who had an only daughter, Isabel, wife of Robert Colyere, a Frenchman, who came into England in the reign of Henry VI, and of whom the family tradition is, that he, during the wars in France, adhered to the interests of king Henry, and, upon the losses that there befel the English, he left his native country, and settled in this kingdom, at Darlaston in the county of Stafford. Robert de Colyere of Darlaston and Isabel de Dodyngton had issue, 1. James; 2. Thurstan, who died without issue; 3. George, warden of Manchester; 4. Robert, who had issue John, a servant in the household of king Henry VIII. and queen Elizabeth. He married Elizabeth Turck, but we know not whether he had any child. She bore for her arms, Argent, two lions rampant, Gules, between a cross engrailed, Azure, on it three bezants, Gules; his coat was the field Sable, on it a cross fitchée, Gules.

* John, son of Thomas by Beatrix, bachelor, did give and confirm to Joan his mother-in-law an annuity of 46s. 3d. to be paid out of certain lands in Somersetshire; and after her decease to come to Philip her son by his father, as by deed dated 8 Henry V.

James married a daughter of ——— Levison, of Wolverhampton in Staffordshire, and had Robert Colyer, of Darlaston (1583); 2. George, who married Elizabeth, daughter of ——— Chilton; 3. Francis, and six daughters. Agnes, wife of ——— Serjeant de Cotes, of Staffordshire; Elizabeth married to ——— Austyn; Jane, wife of ——— Woodcock of London; Isabel married to ——— Isley; Urfula, who was married to a Mr. Fox; the youngest daughter was wife of ——— Nicholson. Robert married twice; first, to Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Venables, of Kinderton, knight; secondly, to Joyce, daughter of Scrimshire de Norbury, of Staffordshire, esq. by whom he had an only child, Elizabeth, who was married to James Scrimshire, of the same family, esq.

Robert Colyere and Agnes Venables had issue five sons and six daughters, as saith the descent*; 1. Margaret, wife of Ralph Smith, alias Tarbox, second son of William Tarbox, of Lancaster; 2. Isabel; 3. Cecily, married to Thomas Harper, son and heir of Walter Harper, of Chinner in Oxfordshire; 4. Lettice, wife of Thomas Kempson, of Wolseley Park, Staffordshire; 5. Mary, wife of ——— Coyney†, younger son of ——— Coyne, of Weston Coyney in Staffordshire; 6. Anne, wife of Edward Harcourt, second son of Simon Harcourt, esq. whose estates lay at Raunton and Ellenhall in Staffordshire; descended of Gervase count de Harcourt, who came with the Conqueror, and of the same line with Simon created earl Harcourt and viscount Newnham, 1749. The five sons of Robert and Agnes Colyere were,

* Penes dom. Gratian. Colyere, 1768.

† Adam Cuney or Coyney, was third and youngest son of John Cuney, of Weston Coyne, esq. (1583); a family seated there in the reign of William I. which had married into the noble lines of Burnel, Erdington, and others. Arms were Or, on a bend Sable, three fleurs de lis Argent.

1. James;

1. James ; 2. Richard, who married Sarah, daughter of ——— Charnell ; 3. Christopher, of Yarlet or Earl's Hide, whose wife was daughter of Sir Walter Aston, knight, of Tixall, of which family came lord Aston, baron of Forfar in Scotland ; 4. Thurstan, who married Elizabeth daughter and heir of ——— Tunstall, esq. and had a son James, of Darlaston : 5. Robert, who married ———, relict of ——— Revel, of Ogfstone in Derbyshire.

Robert Colyer * abovesaid purchased the manor of Hilderstone of John lord Sheffield, whose ancestor had, by a marriage with a daughter of ——— Delves, esq. this lordship of Hiderstone in Staffordshire. This same Robert in 1583 resided at Darlaston, and on a visitation held that year in the county of Stafford was, on strict examination, allowed to be a gentleman, and permitted to use the coat of arms we have already mentioned. Thus seems to be confuted the tale given by Mr. Erdswick, and to be confirmed the pedigree now or lately in the keeping of Mrs. Colyere of Shentone.

In the 13th of queen Elizabeth, November 19, Dorothy Colyer, daughter of John, late of Dalby Lees in Derbyshire, received a legacy left by her said father from the hands of German Pole of Dalbery Lees, gent. and Ann his wife, her mother-in-law, the executrix of his will. We return now to the descent.

James, the eldest son of Robert Colyer, by Agnes Venables, took to wife Jane, second daughter of Robert Needham, esq. of Crevac, Shavington, and Shentone, in Salop ; high sheriff of Salop in the 6th, 28th, and 3 th of queen Elizabeth, a commander in Ireland, vice president of the council on the marches

* He had the manor of Crakemarsh in Staffordshire by purchase from Christopher Sheffield, brother to lord Sheffield.

of Wales; by Frances, daughter of Sir Edward Tixall; which Jane was also sister to Sir Robert Needham, created by king Charles I. in 1625, viscount of Kilmorey in the county of Clare, in Ireland, by letters patents.

This James appears to have been a great waster of his estates; he sold the manor of Hilderstone and Crakemarsh to Sir Gilbert Gerard, master of the rolls, in whose family it was in 1730; the lordships of Stone and Darlaston he conveyed to Robert Needham, esq. his father in-law; Earl's Hyde he sold to Christopher Colyer, his brother, whose son and heir Edward possessed it in 1595, on the death of Christopher; which Edward married —, daughter of — Ailet, esq. of Sugnall in Staffordshire, but we have no account of his children. James Colyer, esq. 26th of June, in the 17th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, had a share in a bond for a considerable sum of money due to him and others from Mrs. Ann Pole of Radburn, which Walter Sutton of Longstoe in Hants, clerk, engaged to satisfy.

Francis Colyere, son of James and Jane as above, married two wives; 1. Anne Crompton; 2. Anne, relict of William Hulme, of Rowley gate in Staffordshire. By the first, Anne, daughter of William Crompton, of Stone Abbey and Stone Park, esq. he had issue 9 sons, and 6 daughters; 1. Jane, wife of — Dody, of Hanchurch in Staffordshire; 2. Dorothy; 3. Anne; 4. Elizabeth; 5. Catherine, wife of Richard Baffano, of Walthamstow in Essex; 6. Alice. The sons were, 1. Robert; 2. Thomas; 3. Francis, who, by Martha, daughter of James Scrimshire, of Norbury manor, esq. had issue Francis; 4. George; 5. Richard; 6. John; 7. William; 8. Walter, who married Lettice, daughter of — Humphries, of Longdon in Staffordshire; 9. Thomas. Robert, by Margaret his wife, daughter of Edward Anson, of Dunston in Staffordshire, had

had one son, James, and 6 daughters; 1, Anne, wife of —— Whitefield; 2 and 3, Marys; 4, Elizabeth; 5, Catherine; 6, Margaret, wife of —— Barnsfield, of Dunstone. Both this Robert, and James his son, are said to have spent a principal part of their remaining estates; the family also suffered much in the civil war in the reign of king Charles I, and under the Usurpation; some of them are said likewise to have been faulty in those times.

In February 1643-4, Margaret, relict of Edward Collier lately deceased, petitioned the committee at Stafford*, to relieve her, touching her dower in certain lands within the manor of Yarlet; upon which orders were given, that she should receive 13l. 6s. 8d. out of Yarlet farm, then in the holding of Francis Colyer, esq. and of John Blackmore; a parcel of land in her own holding, valued at 5l. per ann. to be a part, and the half year's rent to commence on the 25th of March ensuing. John Blakemore usually paid a rent of sixty pounds for his farm at Yarlet; but on the 14th of March 1644-5, he was ordered by the committee to pay to Mr. Colyer only half of the usual rent. The reason is not given, but, in all likelihood, on account of the troubles, and the continual exactions made upon him, he could not make the best of his farm and his produce. In 1643, Sir William Fairfax, in his march through Stafford, January 17, took from Mr. James Colyer of Stone, a bay mare valued at 3l. 6s. 8d., for the mounting of a trooper; on complaint, the committee ordered the constable of Stone to levy the said money upon the town of Stone, and therewith to pay Mr. Colyer; yet we find this gentleman fined one shilling for swearing.

* Committee minutes in MS. in the hands of Mrs. Burney, of Aldershaw near Shenstone.

March 13, 1643-4, Robert Collyer, of Darlaston near Stone, was brought to Stafford, that the governors there might compel him to advance 30*l.* upon the parliament propositions. The result of it was, that he was obliged to pay five pounds at that time, and to engage to give five more in three weeks, upon which he was released, and had the public faith of the kingdom for the money he was to advance, to which he subscribed his name, Robert Colier.

April 17, 1644, the land of Francis Colier, of Stone, esq. was sequestered, he being a delinquent; and it was ordered, that the weekly pay, due for his lands in Stone, shall be repaid by Mr. Sankey and Mr. Thorley, solicitors for the sequestrations, out of the rents of the said Francis Colier, esq. and that Mrs. Colier, his wife, shall be freed from that payment for the lands allotted her in Stone. We find that on the 23d of August following, Mrs. Colier, wife of Francis Colier, esq. was permitted to receive the rents of the Stone estates, that she might be the better enabled to pay the weekly assessments laid upon her in that constablewick; but this order was to continue only during the pleasure of the committee at Stafford.

We now proceed to finish the descent. "James, only son of Robert Colier by Margaret Anson (of the same family with the late lord Anson, of Shukburgh in Staffordshire, baron of Soberton in Hants; and the present member of parliament for Lichfield), married —— daughter of —— Gifford, of Water Eaton (related to the ancient family seated at Chillington in Staffordshire); descended of the same family with the Giffords, earls of Buckingham in England, and of Longueville in Normandy (in the reigns of William I. and William Rufus); and had issue by her, 1. James, who died an infant; 2. Christopher;

3. Francis; 4. Walter; also six daughters; 1. Maria; 2. Elizabeth; 3. Anne; 4. Bridget; 5. Dorothy; 6. Martha." Christopher * was of Wood-end, in the parish of Shenstone, during the life of James his father, who lived some time at the mansion called the Moss, afterwards in Shenstone village, but died either at Rudgley or Cannock. To this Christopher came the Yarlet estate, and others, by will of Christopher Colier his godfather and relation; but they were again sold by his father and himself to Mr. William Murrall of Bagnal, and to Thomas Murrall his brother, of Whitchurch, valued now at 300*l.* per ann. It was by these gentlemen entailed upon John, son of the same Thomas; which John, in November 1768, was living, an attorney at law, and unmarried. James Colier sold also an estate of 50*l.* per annum, lying at Ledal near Penrick in Staffordshire; and lands in Darlaston, which his son Christopher confirmed. This gentleman married Hannah, daughter of the reverend Robert Grace, and had issue only three daughters; 1. Maria, who died of a consumption in 1756, unmarried; 2. Gratiana (in whose hands was the pedigree here given) living and unmarried; 3. Elizabeth, wife of the reverend Joseph Hamilton, both deceased in 1756; also an infant son of theirs, who died soon after his birth the same year. Christopher Colier, gent. died in 1735. We have an account of two other families of the Coliers of some note, living in this parish, but not of the same lineage. The register mentions Mr. William Colier, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, which two families lived, one in Overstonal and Footherley; the other in Lyndon, of which was Thomas, who married Priscilla, daughter of the reverend William Grace, who had issue Job, born in 1678;

* Churchwarden of Shenstone in 1715.

Thomas, in 1682; Joseph, in 1685-6; and, besides others, Priscilla, a daughter, living in 1710.

July 4, 1649, John Colier bought an estate of Mr. Roger Adams of Footherley, to which purchase is witness Thomas Ruggeley. In June, 1667, Mr. John Colier was assessed to the tenth quarterly payment to the royal aid, for a part of the lands called Greenals, 1l. 10s. 6d.; also 6s. 1d. for lands in Footherley. At the same time Thomas Colier, of Upper Stonhall, paid a small matter to the same aid. Benjamin Colier * possessed lands called Bulmores, after sold to Gilbert Walmfley, of Lichfield, esq. whose heirs enjoy them.

The family of the *Graces* long resided in Shenstone and Wood-end; the first I find of this branch was John, who, in the reign of James I. married Patience, daughter of John Meynel, a royalist captain of foot, whose son I take to be William Grace, A. M. who was ejected from the rectory of Reresby in Leicestershire. He was nearly related to Sheldon, bishop of London, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, to whom applications were made for him, but no relief could be obtained there, unless Mr. Grace would conform; which if he would yield to, great matters were promised, but this moved him not to act against his conscience. Some time after, it is said by Dr. Calamy, that "the archbishop recovered so much humanity as to take some care of two of his children."

The reverend Michael Walford, vicar of Shenstone, died in September 1665; and, as I do not find Mr. Grace mentioned before this period, I conclude he succeeded him as vicar, especially as the present Mr. Colier, who is descended from him,

* Living in the reign of James II.

agrees with me, that he succeeded Mr. Walford. If so, Mr. Grace must either have been favoured, or have conformed. Besides the tradition of the family, we are assured from the inscription upon his monument, that he was vicar of Shenstone.

In 1662 was passed the Act of Uniformity of Public Prayers, and the Administration of the Sacrament; by which every minister was obliged, on pain of losing all his ecclesiastical preferments, to conform to the worship of the Church of England, according to the new book of Common Prayer, before the Feast of St. Bartholomew next, from whence it was called the Bartholomew Act. Every clergyman was also compelled to sign a declaration of his unfeigned assent and consent to all and every thing contained and prescribed in and by the Book of Common Prayer; and all were obliged to sign a declaration, in which they promised to conform to the Liturgy of the Church of England, but likewise to renounce the solemn league and covenant, declaring it to be an unlawful oath, and imposed upon the subjects against the known laws and liberties of the kingdom. None must presume to consecrate and administer the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper before they were ordained priests by episcopal ordination, on the penalty of one hundred pounds for every offence. Not submitting to this act of parliament Mr. William Grace was, with about two thousand other ministers, outed of his preferments. Bishop Sheldon pressed strongly the execution of this law, and therefore it may be imagined he would hear nothing in behalf of this his kinsman; yet it seems, from Dr. Calamy's account, something was done for his children, if he did not also procure for him this benefice. This William, A. M. married Joanna, daughter of — Woolley, esq; of Newton hall in the Thistles, Leicestershire,
nearly

nearly related to the Sheldons, and had issue seven sons and three daughters; 1. Job; 2. Robert; 3. Jonathan; 4. Joseph; 5. Thomas; 6. Benjamin, born 1650-1; 7. William: the daughters were, 1. Joan, or Joanna, married the 27th of February, 1665, to Thomas Potte *, of Weeford Hall, son of Charles Potte, who died at Weeford, 1716, aged 93, by Elizabeth his wife, who died there in 1693; which Charles was descended from John Potte, witness to a deed of Robert Le Lynns in Shenstone, conveying lands in Aldershaw to William Newport, esq. in 1430, 8 Henry VI. Joanna Potte died March 4, and was buried the 6th, 1728 9, aged 91. Elizabeth, her daughter, married — Scott, and was buried here October 29, 1729, aged 64; 2. Priscilla, wife of Thomas Colier, of Lynne, who had several children; 3. Jemima Elizabeth, wife of Robert Greifbrook, of Shenstone, gentleman, had issue Thomas †, son of Mr. William Grace by Mary his wife, who had a son, William, born 1683-4, who died 1685, and two daughters; Elizabeth, born 1681, and died in 1691; and Mary, who died in 1691, August 5. Mary, wife of Thomas, died in 1691, in which year he was churchwarden; he died at Wood end in March 1728, leaving Sarah, wife of Samuel Jackson of Austrey in Warwickshire; which Sarah survived her husband, and came to Wood-end, where she died about 1753. They had three daughters; Mary, Frances, and Jane, who all died unmarried. William or Jonathan, and Joseph, were eminent tradesmen in London (one of them, besides other children, had Thomas, living in 1767, in Leicestershire, gent.). These were the two

* Thomas Potte in 1667, then of Shenstone, paid 1s. 2d. to the royal aid quarterly. A meadow in Shenstone is named from him Potte's meadow.

† Thomas Grace, of Wood-end, paid 1s. to the poll-tax in 1692; his wife was daughter of — Allen, of Wood-end.

children

children of whom Dr. Calamy speaks, as before cited, page 92. And, indeed, Archbishop Sheldon took more than ordinary care of them, giving them a good education, and providing not a maintenance only for them, but trades in which, with his farther aid, they acquired fortunes.

Job and Robert were educated at the expence of Henry Grey, earl of Kent, their relation on the mother's side, who also sent them to the university of Cambridge, and supported them there seven years, till they had taken their degrees of Master of Arts. Job was afterwards vicar of Watford in Northamptonshire, and treasurer of the cathedral church at Lichfield. He married, and had issue two daughters; Anne, who died unmarried, and Penelope, who married 1. to ——— Vyse, of Mulnameeze in Staffordshire, gent. but had no child by him; 2. to Thomas, second brother of Sir Robert Clerk, knight, of Watford; by whom she had two sons and one daughter; Frances, wife of ——— Booker, of the city of Peterborough in Northamptonshire. The sons were George, and Job, who was in trade, and died young. George was in holy orders, became chaplain to Sir Thomas Cave, bart. and died at Watford. Penelope Clerk, their mother, died at Peterborough in 1763. The reverend William Grace had also three daughters, who fell likewise into good hands, for lady Magdalen*, sister of Henry earl of Kent, in the time of their father's distress, took them under her protection either till her death, or till some provision was made for them, and married as aforesaid. This William, the vicar, was buried in this church November 10, 1699, in a good old age, being upwards of ninety, as appears from the inscription upon his tomb-stone, set up in me-

* Wife of John Brown, of Stretton in the Fields, co. Leic. and Derby.

mory of him by the reverend Job Grace, his son, vicar of Watford. Joanna, wife of William, was buried in the church, February 23, 1698-9, aged 52 years. William had a brother Oliver, who lived near Leicester, and had issue two daughters, married to two brothers named Muxlow, one of Swebston in Leicestershire, the other was a clergyman.

Robert Grace is called the vicar of this parish at the time of his marriage, January 4, 1672-3; which, no question, his father resigning for that purpose, the benefice was by the crown conferred upon him; and if he had possession of it before the death of archbishop Sheldon, which happened in 1667, in all likelihood he would, when the tenderness of his father's conscience would not allow him to keep it, procure it for him. In 1692, the reverend Robert Grace paid 4s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and two children. He or his children sold lands, and a messuage, to the late John Dolphyn, esq. To him also belonged the estate called the Ashcrofts, near the village of Shenstone, by Elizabeth Sylvester his wife, daughter and coheir of Rowland Sylvester, of Shenstone. He had six children, Sylvester, Samuel, Elizabeth, Sarah, Hannah, and Mary, who died unmarried October 25, 1718, aged 20. Hannah was wife of Christopher Colier, gent. and, besides the children aforesaid, had a son, Christopher-Samuel, baptized January 18, 1726-7, who died in the February following. Sarah was wife of John Carteret, of Sutton Coldfield, and had an only child, Mary, living in 1768, who married thrice; 1. to John Broohall, of Tilstock in Salop, and had issue Mary, deceased, Anne, and Martha; 2. to Vincent, brother of John Broomhall, by whom she had John, Vincent, and William; 3. to William Chetel. Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Robert Grace, was wife of Thomas Hayward, of Alkington hall in Salop, by whom she had four daughters, Grace, Elizabeth,

Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah. Samuel, second son of Robert, died about 1714, aged 27, unmarried. Sylvester was of Birmingham, had many children, who all died young, except as follows; 1. Robert, who married and settled in America; 2. Sarah, wife of Henry Churchill, brother to John Churchill, of Hintz in Staffordshire, by whom she had one son, James; 3. Anne, wife of Edward Pool, who had three children; all dead. Sylvester Grace died in January 1757. Elizabeth died August 23, 1728, buried 31, surviving her husband, the reverend Robert Grace, somewhat more than a year; for he died September 25, 1727, aged 88, with the character of good man, and a truly worthy divine. His tomb-stone hath an inscription upon it, which confirms his being vicar 58 years.

At the mansion-house now belonging to Mr. Houghton of Hintz, and which formerly was much more considerable, resided a family of some character, named *Greifbrook*. They are spoken of in the register-book in 1580, and might have been found before this date if any earlier records of this place could be found. They were possessed of much land here, particularly that named *The Statfolds* and *Littlefield*, which were purchased by John Rawlins, esq. of Lichfield. After his death this mansion, with these and other lands, passed to the late John Houghton, esq. in right of his wife, grand-daughter of the said Mr. Rawlins, who now possesses them.

Greifbrook owned part of the Bull-moor fields, which became afterwards the property of Edward Smith, gent. Also land sold to ——— Alsop, and from him conveyed to Thomas Bedle. A meadow, formerly part of the common field, called Broad Meadow, which came into the hands of the Latimers and Creswells of this parish; from them to the late Mr. Dolphyn, and to the present Mr. Dolphyn; likewise a piece of the Bull-
O moors,

moors, afterwards the estate of — Higgins, after of Benjamin Colier, and from him by purchase to Gilbert Walmfley, of Lichfield, esq. and now in his heirs.

Greifbrook, whence the family had their name, is a manor in Yorkshire, which, in the reign of king Henry III. was in the great house of Mowbray, of whom the Greifbrooks held their lands. Roger de Greifbrook (t. Henry II.) is mentioned as holding of the fee of Alice, countess of Augie, or Ewe, daughter of William de Albiney earl of Arundel, by queen Alice, relict of king Henry I.

Thomas Greifbrook and Elizabeth his wife had, besides other children, a daughter Margery, born in November, 1580; the same month died Elizabeth his wife; and in July, 1582, their daughter. Richard Greifbrook, son of Robert, was baptized September 20, 1585.

Rowland Greifbrook and Isabel Yardley were married in April, 1598; they had Thomas, who died young, Robert, and four daughters; Grace, Penelope, Anne, and Elizabeth. Robert had a daughter, Susanna, born in 1756. Robert Greifbrook*, gent. and Jemima, daughter of Mr. William Grace, were married on July 8, and had issue, 1. William, baptized May 6, 1673; 2. Robert, born 1674, and died in 1681; 3. John, born in February 1681; 5. Robert; and five daughters; 1. Elizabeth, born in 1676, and died in 1729; 2. Joan, born in 1679; 3. Jemima, born in 1685-6; 4. Sarah, born in 1693, and died in 1699; 5. Anne, who died in February 1698-9.

John Walton, of Bagington, and Margery Greifbrook, were married August 28, 1682. Thomas Cramp and Sarah Greifbrook were married January 19, 1721-2. Robert married

* He paid four shillings to the poll-tax for himself, wife, and two children.

Elizabeth, daughter of —— Grosvenor, of Wolverhampton, or of Codfall, near it, but died without issue in 1727. Jemima, daughter of Mr. Grace, and wife of Robert Greifbrook * the elder, died in 1724, aged 77.

In 1655 Robert Greifbrook was witness to a covenant of marriage between Ralph Thickbroom and Margaret Cook, of Little Hay. In 1667 he paid 1s. 4d. to the quarterly royal aid; and 3d. ob. for land of Mr. Floyer.

Thomas Cramp and Sarah Greifbrook had four children; Greifbrook, and three daughters, Sarah, Jemima, and Ruema, the latter living in 1768 unmarried; the two eldest daughters married and had issue, but both are dead. Greifbrook Cramp was heir to his uncle Robert, is a farmer at Cowerne in Herefordshire, and by —— his wife, daughter of —— Darlaston, of Ilford in Staffordshire, hath two sons. Sarah Griefbrook secondly married John Lea, and had Dorothy, Jane, and Elizabeth.

In the mansion called *Greenballs*, now Mr. Dolphin's, lived a gentleman named Wollaston, or Woollerston, most likely from a village of this name in Staffordshire.

A noted antiquary †, who speaks with severity of many families in this county, has these words: "Several of the gentry would take it ill to be wrote less than esquires, of which he mentions alderman Wollaston's son at Walsal, and William Wollaston of Chebfey and Oucote, or Oncoat Grange." To this we shall make no reply, but let the following circumstances speak for themselves. Thomas Wollaston, esq. was a person of figure in the reign of Henry VII. in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII, and some years after he had the office of keeper of the

* Robert Greifbrook the elder died in 1718.

† Simon Degge, ann. 1673.

outwoods, called Lyndridge woods, in the county of Warwick, by a grant from the crown, and so continued to the 15th or 16th of Henry VIII. In 1565 we find William Wollaston * seated at Shenstone, but how much sooner is not known. That year John his son by Elizabeth his wife was baptized in September, and died 1666; also Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Wollaston, gent. by his wife Sabina, was buried February 26.

William Wollaston, gent. died January 7, 1 James I. seised of Trecot, a grange and mill in Overpenne, Caldwalds, land in Overton, Wathill or Otehill, in Tressful, Grange or Granfield, in Halefowen in Salop, which he left to Hugh his son, then fifty years old; he, at his decease in 7 James I. left them to Edward his son and heir, aged 12.

William of Trefcot, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, married a daughter to John Barnsley, of Treaful, esq. younger brother of ——— Barnsley in Worcestershire, who had issue by him both sons and daughters. In the reigns of king Charles I. and king Charles II. ——— Wollaston, esq. had a seat in Walsal, and John had a daughter Blanch, wife of John second son of Richard Pyott, of Strethey, esq. by Mary daughter of Sir William Skeffington, of Fisherwick, knight.

In 1767 was born Edward, son of William and Elizabeth Wollaston, who died in 1685. Joseph, their son, was born in 1669, and died in 1697; and Elizabeth their daughter was born in 1671. Thomas Wollaston, gent. died at Shenstone in April 1674, who seems to be father of William, who also died in 1691-2; as did Elizabeth his wife in 1692. Thomas, of St. Mary's parish in Lichfield, was buried at Shenstone the 19th of April, 1712; and William, from the same place, in 1738;

* In 1667 he paid for part of Greenhalls estate one shilling and nine-pence.

also

also Francis Wollaston, gent. of Birmingham, in 1752, who had purchased Billesley manor in Yardley in Worcestershire, of — Byffel, gent. and Mr. Samuel Wollaston, of Lichfield, in 1755, with another of the family in 1756.

Wollaston Pym, esq. an Hertfordshire gentleman, now of Willoughbridge in Staffordshire, lately lieutenant-colonel of the 64th regiment of foot, was of the same family by his mother, which gentleman sometime lived in Upper Stonhall, and has a son Wollaston, born in 1766, and two daughters.

The father of the famous William Wollaston settled at Shenstone, probably soon after the troubles ceased by the Restoration of king Charles II; though Colton Clanford in Staffordshire was before his residence. At this time his fortune was inconsiderable, but descended of an antient and worthy family seated at Colton Clanford; this was the elder branch. The head of the second line was of Oncoat in Staffordshire, and afterwards removed to Shenton in Leicestershire. The grandfather of this eminent person had a handsome fortune, real and personal, with an office of 700 l. per annum. William was born in 1659, March 26, at Colton; and in 1668 went to a Latin school then newly opened at Shenstone, the residence of his father, where continuing two years, or thereabouts, he was then sent to Lichfield, and at sixteen years old went to Sydney college, Cambridge, June 8, 1674. In 1681 his parents had left Shenstone, for we find that he paid them a visit some time after Michaelmas that year at Bloxwick, where they then lived. On the 19th of August, 1688, his relation at Shenstone (cousin german to his father), dying without male issue, made him his heir to an ample estate.

In 1689, November 26, he married Catherine, daughter of Sir Nicholas Charlton, knight, and citizen of London; she died

died July 21, 1720. In 1722, he published his noted performance called, "The Religion of Nature delineated." He died October 29, 1724, and was buried near his wife at Fontborough Magna.

William Warburton, bishop of Gloucester, an able writer, attacked this work, as did Conyers Middleton, D. D. of Cambridge, a man of an artful address, who commended it, and is allowed to have been a man of wit and learning. The late lord viscount Bolingbroke condemns his system as a strange theism.

Whatever were their opinions of this piece, these several circumstances shew the excellence of it, which yet remains unhurt.

This great author had eleven children, of which four died before him, and four were of Sydney college, Cambridge. William the eldest son represented the borough of Ipswich in parliament during the last parliament of king George II. Richard Wollaston, esq. was one of those gentlemen who voted in 1702-3 against agreeing to the Lords' amendment in the clause of an act, which was farther to secure the succession of the crown in the house of Hanover.

The Wollastons owned an estate in Fotherley.

We find a gentleman settled here named *Wolferstan*, unquestionably a branch of the antient family long seated at Stafford in Staffordshire, in the reign of king Charles II.

The *Greenballs* came from a village so named, near Norton upon Trent, Staffordshire, which was by Thomas de Cadurcis, or Chaworth, given to the abbey de Bello Capite (Beauchief) in Derbyshire; and had a considerable estate in Shenstone, of which several lands carry their name. Some of these lands were the Hardenbrooks, a piece of ground near the Church-hill, towards the Birmingham road, Balls Croft, and the two
Green-

Greenhalls near it, Balls meadow on the road to the park, five or six pieces near Pindlefields on the Tamworth road, with several others near their mansion. In the reign of queen Elizabeth Rowland Greenhall had a son Rowland, who by Catherine his wife, daughter of Rowland Rudding of Lynne, had a daughter Alice, born 1608. Robert, Rowland, Simon, who lived at Swynfen *, and had issue by Alice his wife, Simon, buried 1657, with his mother; and William of Swynfen, whose wife Cecily died in 1657. Robert of Shenstone had issue Anne, born 1657.

Rowland Greenhall married Sarah Sharpling in 1657, and had by her three sons and four daughters; Robert, John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Sarah, born 1660-1; Mary, born 1665-6, and Anne, born 1674; all which daughters were married. Robert was a distiller, and settled in the city of Worcester; he died without issue. John was killed by an accidental hurt from an harrow, and died without issue. Joseph was heir to his brothers, and sold a good part of the remaining estate to the late John Dolphyn, esq.

Mr. Rowland Smyth lived in this same mansion of the Greenhalls, and was the gentleman who gave one of the bells.

The late Mrs. Crisp lived here till her death, in November 1766, aged near 83.

Mr. William Dufour, a native of France, now holds the same house of John Dolphyn, esq.

We may not here omit to mention, that there lately resided in this village, at the house wherein Mrs. Colier now dwells, a genteel family named Parkhurst, of which was John, bishop of Norwich in 1560, 2 Elizabeth, and rector of Bishop's Cleeve

* He died at Erdington in 1680, and was buried at Shenstone.

in Gloucestershire, born at Guildford in Surrey, son of George Parkhurst, esq. Robert of Shenstone, in 1761, was third son of Dormer Parkhurst, of Epsom in the county of Surrey, and of Catesby in Northamptonshire. He was when a youth page to her royal highness the princess of Wales, mother of his present majesty, thence removed to a lieutenancy of marines, and was in the sea service some time; he became after this a cornet of horse, and shortly after captain in general Stuart's regiment of foot, in which capacity he fought at the glorious battle of Minden, when the infantry, unaided by the cavalry, defeated the French army, and was sorely hurt by a musket ball in the forehead, and by a blow from the but-end of a musket. He was conveyed out of the battle, wounded, and insensible. As soon as capable he returned to England; his health being in some measure restored, he returned to his duty, but the fatigues soon overtook him, and he was necessitated to retire, as he did, to Shenstone. The injuries he received in the above engagement took him off in 1764, at Bristol Hot Wells, about a week after he got thither. He was a man of a military cast, of a generous and noble mind, with a becoming spirit; to which we may add, great vivacity and cheerfulness; which, aided by a courtly education, a knowledge of the world, and an acquaintance with persons of great figure, rendered him a most agreeable companion. He married Ann Ogle Guyther, born at Annapolis in Maryland, daughter of —— Guyther, esq. brother to the governor of St. Christopher's of that name, by whom he had issue, George, aged 9, 1768; Charles, born in April 1762; and Anne, born in September 1763; she is yet living, and unmarried.

The family of *Huggeſon*, or *Higſon*, had a houſe and lands in the village, who ſeem to have had their name from a manor in the pariſh of Chartley in Staffordſhire, the eſtate of earl Ferrers, called Hicſon. In 1598 George Higgeſon was of this place, who had William * that died in 1609, as did Barbara Higſon in 1675. Humphry Land of Walfal, and Elizabeth Higſon of Shenſtone, were married in 1603, January 30. In this name, beſides other eſtates, were the Bullmoors, which before were the lands of the Greifbrooks, and now in the Walmſleys of Lichfield.

Higgeſon's land and meſſuage came to the *Smyths*, of which line was Henry, whoſe ſon Henry married a perſon of ſome fortune, —— daughter of —— Jenkynſon, of Derbyſhire (who, ſurviving her huſband Mr. Smith, married to her ſecond huſband Walter Aſtley, gent. ſon of —— Aſtley, eſq. of Tamhorne near Fiſherwicke, Staffordſhire). By Henry † Smith ſhe had, beſides other children, Paul. This Henry is ſaid to have built the preſent manſion at the time of his marriage as aboveſaid, where Mrs. Jane Fidgeon now lives.

Paul was an attorney, and lived both at Stafford and Shenſtone. He married thrice; by his firſt wife he had iſſue Edward, and ſeveral daughters; I have not learned who his ſecond wife was; the laſt was Sarah, relict of —— Edenſor, of Birmingham, eldeſt ſiſter of John Dolphyn, of Shenſtone, eſq. which Sarah, outliving the ſaid Paul Smyth, died in 1730, and was buried at Shenſtone; her huſband was buried at Stafford; by theſe two wives Paul Smyth had no children. Edward married a wife

* Father of Jane, born in 1579.

† Henry Smyth ſeems to have had two wives, for the register ſays, Anne, daughter of Henry and Dorothy Smyth, was born in 1672; and Henry, ſon of Henry and Catharine, in 1678, who died the ſame year.

from Uttoxeter, and had issue only Edward, who died young. Edward, who was also an attorney at law in Stafford, dying without issue, left his estate at Shenstone, part in the tenure of Mr. Elde and Mrs. Fidgeon, and the other part of Robert Ingram, to his wife, who demised them to her nephew Samuel Bardley of Tamworth, attorney at law, whose widow still possesses these lands.

The *Astleys* have long lived in this place, and are noted for being one of the most antient houses who possessed lands in Staffordshire. Roger Astley was of Shenstone in the reign of queen Elizabeth, in 1584, had a daughter Alice; and died in 1602. In 1599 Richard Astley and Elizabeth Collins were married here. In 1605 John (whom I look upon as son of Roger, and brother of Richard and Alice,) married Elizabeth Hodgetts. John Black married Elizabeth Astley in 1606. Susanna Astley died in 1658; Margaret in 1679. Thomas and Ann Astley had a son Thomas born in 1684. This family gave name to a meadow near Shenstone village, to this time termed Astley's meadow. Walter Astley lived part of his days in a messuage at Fotherly, or Wood-end, formerly the estate of William Priest, afterwards this Walter's; from him it passed to — Thornton and Wigan; and in 1767 to William Tenant, esq. lord of this manor. This Walter Astley died at Cannock in 1730, and was buried here; as was Dorothy his wife in 1729, who, as we before noted, was relict of Henry, and mother of Paul Smyth, of Shenstone, attorney at law. Lands, now John Marlow's, were the property of Walter Astley, and others were left by him to his wife's friends.

Daniel

Daniel Skynner, gent. a goldsmith of London, citizen and alderman of the same place, retiring from business, came to this village, and lived in the house now in the tenure of Mrs. Jane Fidgeon. By his wife, —, daughter of — Wilfon of Lichfield, he had several children, who all died young. In 1734 died this gentleman's mother; in 1751 Sarah his wife; in 1753 this Mr. Skinner himself; and were all buried at Shenstone: Charles Howard, of Lichfield, gent. was his nephew and heir.

In this place resided a good family named *Everard*, but I am not satisfied where they lived, but suppose in the village, and therefore have chosen to speak of them before I proceed farther.

The elder branch was seated in Leicestershire, of which we have this descent: Richard Everard, of Leicestershire, had a son Richard, who took to wife Joyce, daughter of — Langham, of Gopshall, and had issue, 1. Robert, of Leicestershire; and 2. William, who had issue; 3. George; 4. Thomas. Robert settled at Shenstone (living in the reign of queen Elizabeth, 1583), and married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Wolfreftan, of Wyford or Weeford, esq. by whom he had issue, 1. Richard, who took to wife Jane, daughter and heir of Richard Waterton, of Lincolnshire, esq. and had by her Richard, aged 16, in 1583; 2. Humphry, of Whittington and Shenstone, who, on examination of the heralds at arms in their visitation through the county of Stafford in the year 1583, was allowed to be a gentleman by birth, and to have good right to the coat borne by the family with difference. His wife was Anne, daughter and heir of Richard Clarkson, or Le Clerk, esq. of Whittington, by whom he had children; Edward, John, and Michael; also four daughters, Frances, Catharine, Alice, and Joanna: the third son of Robert Everard and Margaret Wolverstan was

Sampson; 4. John; and four daughters; 1. Matilda, wife of Richard; 2. Joyce, wife of Thomas Barford, by whom she had Thomas; 3. Mary, married to Sir Edmund Brudenel, knt. 4. Margaret, wife of Sampson Wolverstan, esq.

Arms of Everard; Argent, on a chevron Gules, three mullets Sable, between three mullets. Of the Shenstone line the same, with six points; of the second, a crescent for difference.

About the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign and in the reign of king James I. we find a gentleman at Shenstone named *Potter*.

Simon Potter, gent. by Barbara his wife, had a daughter Mary, born here in 1608; a son Simon born in 1609, but we find no more of this name, owing to the deficiency of the parish records.

At the house belonging to Samuel Beardley, and in the holding of Jane Fidgeon, gentlewoman, formerly lived a family of some note, named *James*. Edward James, of this place, by Frances his wife, had a son William Venables, born in the year 1702, on the 19th of June, and died in 1704; also Robert, born August 15, 1703, a physician, and famous for his medicine called Dr. James's Fever Powder. Edward and Frances had likewise a son Stafford, attorney at law, who resided lately at Brewood in Staffordshire, who had two sons, both under the care of the late Thomas Sanders, of Stourbridge in Worcestershire, chemist and apothecary.

To the freeholders or other inhabitants of Shenstone village appertains a large field, called the Broad-meadow, upon which several of the poor turn their cattle without expence, and at their pleasure. This field was more extensive till encroachments were made, and but a few years since a part of it was annexed to Mullener's farm; also a part of it was in the families of Greif-

Greisbrook, Latimer, and Crefwell, now in the possession of Mr. Dolphyn.

At a little distance from the church is a water called *St. John's well*, from the saint to whom the church is dedicated. This well was looked upon as sacred from the miracles or cures performed with the water of it on St. John the Baptist's day. For this reason, in the times of Popish superstition, many people, and these not of the common sort only, placed a sanctity in them, brought alms and offerings to them, and made vows at them. This superstitious devotion was named Well worship, and, though used by the people, was not approved of by the heads of the church, being strictly prohibited in several English councils in the days of king Edgar and Canute, and in a council held in London under Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1102. In some places within this county the custom continues, or hath not long been disused, of adorning such wells with boughs and flowers upon Holy Thursday especially, as was usual also at all Gospel-places, whether wells, trees, or hills. Upon such occasions the people frequently diverted themselves with cakes and ale, musick and dancing, with other like sports and amusements; which were innocent enough, and tolerable in comparison of what had formerly been practised.

Near St. John's well stands a delightful mansion in the holding of Mr. Martin Wood, but the property of Thomas Biddulph, of Whitacre in Warwickshire, whose father built it, except the additions erected by Mr. Gisborn, who held it prior to Mr. Wood. In the village is likewise a neat and pleasant house, fit for a private gentleman, the property of Mr. John Rawlins, in right of his wife Dorothy, and of her sister Elizabeth Lea, daughters of John Lea of Shenstone; but the situation of this is far inferior to that of Thomas Biddulph.

A S H C R O F T S.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the church is a mansion called *The Ashcrofts*. The lands near it were the estate of the *Brandreth* family, who most likely purchased it from the Rugeleys. William *Sylvester* * afterwards possessed it, of which family Rowland Sylvester passed it to his daughter Elizabeth, wife of the reverend Robert Grace, which Elizabeth and Sarah her sister were daughters and coheirs of the said Rowland, son of Rowland, son of Roger Sylvester, of a family antient as any in the parish, and several of them were people in good circumstances.

Sarah, daughter and coheir of Rowland Sylvester of the Ashcrofts, was wife of — Sheldon, attorney at law, of Beoley in Worcester-shire, whose issue were John, and Sarah, wife of — Annesley, of Fradley in Staffordshire, who had by her James, living in 1768; and Elizabeth, wife of — Nuthal, of Alreways. Of Mr. John Sheldon and Mr. Sylvester Grace were purchased the house where Mrs. Graciana Colyere now lives, and near twenty acres of land lying near it, by the late Hannah, wife of Christopher Colyere, gent. of which land the present Mr. John Cooke, of Woodend, purchased 13 acres. To the aforesaid Sarah Sheldon belonged land named *Kings Pieces*, which, in the 4th year of the reign of king Charles I. were Roger Sylvester's, son of William of the Ashcrofts in 1605, who died there in 1610. These Kings

* William Sylvester of the Ashcrofts died in 1610-11.

Pieces, or part of them, were the property of John Lea, and very lately were in his heirs.

The Ashcrofts coming into the hands of Sylvester, son of Robert Grace, he transferred his right in them to Edward *Adcock*, whose son Edward enjoys this estate, with a small new house erected by his late father, who took down a large old one, which was half timber, in the old model of building, but with additional land purchased a few years since of ——— Hayes, of Lichfield, gent. who had it of ——— Waryng, of Hilltop near Edjial hall. The whole is now near 90 acres of land.

In the reign of king Charles II. I find a gentleman here, but know not whence he came; his name Francis Steward, who, by Elizabeth his wife, had issue Mary born in 1683, and Anne born in 1685. Nor can we learn any thing farther of him.

W O O D E N D.

P A R K H A L L.

Alexander Ward, in the reign of Charles I. purchased a part of the old park of James Elphinston lord Balmerino, of North Britain, ancestor of the unhappy lord who was in the late rebellion in the reign of George II, and for that crime was attainted and beheaded. Alexander Ward, and ——— Lake, dividing the old inclosure, made each of them a park. Ward's land extended itself to the fold-yard adjoining to Shenstone Park House, and so on towards Woodend, where at the lodge he built himself a mansion.

Whether

Whether the present house was of his building is uncertain, but most likely it was, having such an antique appearance; if so, it was unquestionably much larger, though there remain yet the servants' hall, a large parlour, and some rooms, having some of the old-fashioned wainscot hanging upon them. The house stands in the way to Woodend, upon the public road leading to Birmingham, half a mile from Shenstone church, and hath before it a court surrounded with an high brick wall, full of yews, laurel trees, and such like evergreens.

In the years 1640, 1641, and 1642, Ward's park was stocked with deer, as reported by the commissioners who gave an account of the parks in Staffordshire. This Alexander Ward had issue, as I think, 1. Thomas; 2. Alexander; 3. Henry; and probably others. Henry lived some time at Freeford, near Lichfield, and was buried at Shenstone, November 18, 1661, aged 70. Alexander lived also at Freeford, and was buried here in 1663, aged 75, having been thrice head bailiff of Lichfield. He had issue 19 children by one wife; 1. Alexander; 2. Thomas, of Foothrley, who, by Alice * his wife, had Alexander, born in 1662, and died in 1666; John, who died in 1665; and others. I find also Thomas Ward, of Woodend Hall, or Park Hall, who, by Anne his wife, had issue Thomas, born 1665; Alexander, Richard, Anne, Elizabeth, and Mary, wife of William Moss of Lichfield. Thomas Ward, gent. in 1667 paid 1l. 1rs. 6d. to the quarterly assessment of the royal aid. In 1692, either this Thomas, or his son Thomas, paid for himself and wife to the poll-tax 2s. In 1659 he was churchwarden, and died in 1693; Thomas, his son, died in 1709-10, and was termed a gentleman. Alexander, by Elizabeth his wife, had

* She died in 1666.

issue, 1. Thomas, born 1683; 2. Alexander, born 1684, who soon after died; also daughters, of which one was Elizabeth. In 1699 died Elizabeth, wife of this Alexander Ward; and Alexander in 1701 was found dead, seated in a chair at Tamworth, as supposed of an apoplexy, and to this day it is spoken of as somewhat extraordinary, that to some of the poor at his funeral, which was large, was given bread to the amount of six or eight loaves each person; such a dole of bread was also distributed to the poor at the interment of his wife. Thomas Ward, called as above *The Gentleman*, or more frequently by the name of *Noble Clove* (from his extreme fondness for clove water), succeeded his father in the Wood-end estate, but his excesses brought on his death (as we noted) in 1609-10. Dying without issue, what remained of the estate, which is said to have been in a great measure acquired by the family in the troublesome days of King Charles I, from the oppressed Royalists, passed to — Ward, of Banbury in Warwickshire, who sold it to Mr. Matthews.

Of the Wards of Shenstone Park Hall we know little more than that Alexander first mentioned was a purchaser of lands in Radley Moor, and in 1648 sold lands in the Broad Field and Old Fields, to which were witnesses Henry Ward and Thomas Rugeley; also that the same, or rather Alexander of Freeford, his son, 12 Charles II. was an evidence to the selling of a tenement with lands in Little Hay to Rowland Alsop, which had been sold not long before by the two lords of the manor; and again, with Thomas Ward, witness to a contract for a sum of money paid by Rowland Alsop to Roger Walker, and Edmund Wharton, both of Moseley, who had some possessions in Little Hay, 13 Charles II. Thomas was witness in 1671 to a contract of Rowland Alsop, conveying an estate to Thomas Alsop

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his

his son. In 1675 Thomas Ward, of Shenstone Park Hall, passed over lands called Upper Hurleys, lying near to Careless's piece, with others in the park on lease to Thomas Alfop and Richard Allen of Little Hay. In 1677 Thomas Ward, of Shenstone, gent. was trustee for the dower of Mary daughter of Henry Sedgewick, of Wild-green, gent. who married James Adams of Fotherley. In 1686-7 Alexander, Thomas, and Anne Ward, were witnesses to the will of Rowland Alfop of Shenstone. In 1689 Thomas was one of the persons who managed for the heirs of the said person deceased. In 1671 Richard and Dorothy Ward witnessed a deed of — Adams of Fotherley, to Dorothy Sedgewick of Little Aston. In 1682 Anne and Alexander Ward were evidences to deeds of — Adams to Joseph Hall of Aston Parva. In 1688 Alexander Ward, gent. entered, with others, into an obligation, that Rowland Ward of Aldrich, and John of Whittington, should levy a fine for lands to Thurstan Southern of Elmhurst, Henry Jackson of Wall, and Alexander Ward. Richard Ward, about the reign of queen Anne, was evidence to a bond of Jac. Adams of Fotherley for money due to Richard Gretton of Sandford-street in Lichfield; and likewise to his purchase of two burgage houses from the said Richard Gretton.

Matthew, of Morecoat hall in the parish of Berkswell, Warwickshire, who purchased — Ward's estate in Shenstone, had issue, as I think, one son and two daughters; the son succeeding settled in the city of Worcester, with his mother and two relations, daughters of — Moseley, of Aftbury in Shropshire, gent. This Mr. Matthews is charged with putting an end to his life by shooting himself, but several circumstances seemed to indicate that he was taken off; besides, that it was supposed a will was forged in favour of the mother and the two relations
 afore-

aforesaid, one of which about that time married an officer in the army. — Moseley and the heir went to law with the parties suspected, and recovered the estates. The lives of the parties suspected were in danger, and they escaped by bringing many evidences to prove, that the deceased was greatly inclined to melancholy, and was therefore, unquestionably, his own executioner. Sarah Matthews had the estate at Wood-end, and either allowed — Moseley a valuable consideration in right of his wife, deceased, who, as I am told, was sister to the gentleman who was shot, and to Sarah Matthews, which Sarah resided at the Hall-house with her tenant John Bott, or at the house now possessed by John Cook, where she built apartments for that purpose. She sold the estates in Shenstone to Samuel Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. who, besides the purchase-money, allowed an annuity to Mr. Moseley till his decease, which happened in 1757 only, a few months before Mr. Hill's. Sarah Matthews died unmarried, and was buried at Hampton on the Hill in Warwickshire.

— Matthew was son of John Matthew, descended of Henry, alive in the reign of king Charles I. who was great grandson of George, who was found to be twelve years old 13 Henry VII. living in 1538 (Henry VIII.) son of George and Alice his wife, who had issue four more sons and two daughters, which George was son and heir of John Matthew, skinner, and sheriff of the city of Coventry, who, in the reign of Edward IV. married the daughter and heir of — Del Botry, with whom he had the manor of Morecote in Warwickshire, which John bore for his coat of arms, Sable, a Lion rampant, Argent, and was son of George Mathew of Wales.

Upon the decease of Samuel Hill, esq. these estates, now in the tenure of John Cook and John Bott, with a small part of Joseph Jobbern's farm, of Wood-end, came to Samuel Egerton,

of Tatton-park in Cheshire, esq. nephew and heir to the said Samuel Hill; likewise a fine estate lying on the river Mersey in Lancashire, valued at more than four thousand pounds per annum, and Fisherwick park near Whittington in Staffordshire, a manor formerly (24 Edward I.) held of the bishop of Lichfield by Roger Durdent. Walter Durdent, becoming bishop of the same see, settled it on his own family; and 4 Edward II. Nicholas Durdent was lord of it. The family of Skeffington had it from the time of king Henry VIII. if not earlier. In king George the Second's reign it was sold by lord viscount Massareen, or his heirs, to Samuel Swynfen, of Swynfen near Shenstone, esq. who soon after passed it to Samuel Hill, of Shenstone-park, esq. on whose decease, Samuel Egerton, of Tatton, esq. inherited it, who sold it to Samuel Swynfen, of Swynfen, esq. the former purchaser, who, in a little time after, passed it to the guardians of the right honourable the earl of Donegal in Ireland, the present possessor.

Samuel Egerton, esq. had other lands from his uncle; as a farm near Tamworth, which he sold to Samuel Swynfen, the present possessor. Bole Hall, originally a member of Amington, now a member in the parish of Tamworth, which, in the reign of Richard II. was in Sir John de Clinters, of Maxtock in Warwickshire. In the reign of Henry VI. Edmund Montfort had it, but returning to the Clintons, Edward lord Clinton and Say, in the 29th year of the reign of Henry VIII. conveyed it to James Levison, whose daughter had it in marriage with Walter Aston. His grandson Sir Walter, knight and baronet, passed it to William Anson, of whom William Cumberland of Tamworth, and Ann his wife, had it in the 13th year of the reign of James I. In latter times the honourable and reverend Richard Hill purchased

chased it*, who fettled the fame upon Samuel Hill his nephew, on whose decease it came to Samuel Egerton, who lately fold Bole Hall and the lands thereto appertaining to the right honourable George lord viscount Townshend, late lord lieutenant of Ireland. Many other good estates † Mr. Egerton enjoyed, beside which, a curious library and a large personalty were divided between him and his two sisters, of whose family we shall now speak.

EGERTON FAMILY.

Hugh de Abrincis, furnamed Lupus, second earl of Chester after the Conquest (so termed, not because it was made over this nation, but over king Harold, as appears from king William the First's claim, and his offer to decide his right by single combat), son of Richard de Goz viscount de Avranches in Normandy by Margaret his wife, half sister by the mother to William I. had in his train a Norman officer of note, named Hugh, created one of his parliamentary barons in the county palatine of Chester, by that great authority with which his uncle had invested him, and bore thenceforward the style and title of baron de Malopassu (Malpas). This lord Hugh left Robert Fitz Hugh his son lord Malpas, who in the survey begun in the 14th year of the reign of William I. and finished in the

* I am informed that Samuel Hill, esq. purchased it, which seems most likely, as Samuel Egerton had it.

† As Hill-Hall in Sutton Colefield.

20th year of the said reign, called Domes-day book *, is said to have held by military service under Hugh Lupus the following lordships; Beddefeld, Burwardeston, Hardingbury, Depenbeche, now called Malpas, Tilleston, Cuffeton, Eghe, Calmundelei, Hanton, Lavorthedon, Dockington, Celelea, Broffe, Oretton, Cuntiton, Shoclicke, Tufigham, Bichele, Bicerton, Burwardeston fold by the earls of Edwyn and Morcar, Raventhell, Creuhale, Tidulston, Buifton, Boleberie, Teverton, Sporetan, Penretone, Sudtone, Buttelege, Croverthe or Coeneche. So that if what is asserted be just, that the Normans succeeded the Saxon gerefa's or chiefs of the rural tythings in the same power, except that William I. made this office of superiority hereditary, Hugh lord Malpas or Robert Fitzroy must have possessed at least three honours; yet, as we before intimated, they seem to have sitten only as barons in those conventions of estates that were held in the palatinate of Chester, then comprehending some part of Wales.

In these days we conjecture, that every tything was an honour, and consisted of ten manors, and that every tything (after this superiority became hereditary) constituted one barony or honour. Then the chiefs from Norman appellatives were called barons and feignours, contractedly fires, and such their estates, feignories, baronies, or honours. A necessary qualification for one that held a parliamentary barony was, that he should possess thirteen knights' fees and a half, or a fourth part of a fee as some; each of these *feoda* or fees valued at 20*l.* *per ann.* at least, a sum equal to 140*l.* *per ann.* in the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII. and to 300*l.* yearly, or, as others, 500*l.* yearly in George the Third's reign; *i. e.* 20*l.* *per ann.* would at that time purchase

* Lib. de Domesday in Cheshire.

as much corn or other necessaries of life as the largest of those sums would in our days, if not in king William the 'Third's. Robert Fitz Hugh dying without issue male, the barony of Malpas, with the lordship of Calmadelei (Cholmley), &c. descended to Lettice his daughter, wife of Richard de Belward, whose son or grandson William de Belward married Beatrix, daughter of Hugh Kevilioch, fifth earl of Chester, and coheir to her brother Randal, earl of Chester, which William, in right of his mother, was baron of Malpas, though it is said by some, that this man had only half the barony; but it is agreed by Sir William Dugdale and other antiquaries, that he left issue three sons, David, Robert, and Richard; so Collins* says. A MS. account of Cheshire, in my possession, taken from a curious antiquary, says, that Beatrix was sister to Hugh Kevilioch earl of Chester, daughter of Radulph de Gernon, and that she married Radaulf (Ralph) baron de Malopassu, by whom she had Margaret her daughter and heir, wife of David de Belward, called Le Clerc, from his having been clerk or secretary to the earl of Chester; he succeeding his father at Malpas, was also named David de Malpas, and, in the 36th year of the reign of Henry III. was high sheriff of Cheshire. This David, as Collins observes, left issue three sons, of which Philip, the second, seating himself at Egerton, left that surname to his posterity, from whom the family of Egerton is descended, whereof the present duke of Bridgewater is derived.

The MS. aforesaid adds, that David Clerc (who, in the 37th year of the reign of king Henry III. held three fees under the earl of Chester) had a second son named Philip Gough de

* In title of earl Cholmley, 4to edition.

Malpas, who married Catharine, sister of Richard de Hurlton, and had issue David de Egerton, of whom descended Thomas Egerton, lord chancellor of England in the reign of James I. I observe here, that this David, in the reign of Henry III. held but three knights' fees, which might arise from some of the family's being concerned in the troubles of those days, occasioned by Stephen's seizing the crown when the three competitors, king Stephen, Maud the Empress, and king Henry II. treated the barons that opposed them as rebels, who before, under the feudal rights were so many little princes: much of the lands being forfeited to the several contending sovereigns, as each prevailed they with them rewarded their respective adherents. Hente arose the old and new feoffments, which differed in the extent and portion of lands, and gave rise to the distinction of the greater and lesser barons; or the estates of the family might be divided among several heirs, as we read indeed the barony was.

Sir Richard Egerton, knight, in the reign of Henry VIII. had issue Sir Thomas, a man excellently well read in the common laws of England, made solicitor-general to queen Elizabeth in 1583; lord-keeper of the great-seal in 1596; and in 1603, in the reign of James I. advanced to the dignity of a baron of this realm by the title of lord Ellesmere, in the county of Salop, on the 3d of May, 1603*, and made lord chancellor of England; and November 7, 1616 (14 James I.), viscount Brackley, of the county of Northampton, his second and only son, by Elizabeth his first wife, daughter of Thomas Ravenscroft, of Bretton in Flintshire, was John viscount Brackley, who, in 1617, on the 27th of May, was advanced to the title and dignity of

* 21 July, was created a baron at Hampton-court.

earl of Bridgewater, in the county of Somerfet, a man of incomparable parts, both natural and acquired, a profound scholar, and a good christian. He married Frances, second daughter of Ferdinand baron Stanley, Strange of Knockton, of the Isle of Man, and earl of Derby, and had issue by her John, second earl of Bridgewater of this line, who, marrying Elizabeth daughter of William Cavendish, duke of Newcastle and earl Ogle, the famous general of Charles I. in the North of England during the Civil Wars, had issue by her a third son, Thomas*, seated at Tatton in Cheshire, who, by Esther his wife, daughter of Sir John Bushby, of Addington in Buckinghamshire, knight, had issue John Egerton (born February 12, 1679), whose son and heir was John of Tatton (1735), esq. He had issue that survived him by — Barbour, sister of the late Samuel Barbour, or Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. John, Samuel, and Thomas, who died unmarried; also two daughters, — wife of — Tatton, of Widrenshaw in Cheshire, esq. late high sheriff for the county of Chester, and hath issue, and Elizabeth, who died about 1766, at Shrewsbury, unmarried. John, the eldest son, of New Tatton in Cheshire, in April, 1735, married —, second daughter of — Ward, esq. counsellor at law, of Cheshire, formerly member of parliament for Newton in Lancashire, with whom he had a fortune of 15,000l. By her he had issue a daughter, who died at the age of seven years, and leaving his wife with child, she was delivered of another daughter that deceased in her infancy.

Samuel succeeded his brother John, and is now living at Tatton Park, where he hath a noble seat, erected in part by his father, but with great additions in a style of magnificence made by himself; the park he hath also enlarged, so much as

* Born March 16, 1651.

to take in a circuit of twelve miles. This gentleman was unanimously elected one of the representatives for the county of Chester, and so continued in a succeeding parliament; he was one of the members of the House of Commons who voted the terms of the last peace were not satisfactory; and, in April, 1768, when John Wilkes, esq. elected a fourth time member of parliament for the county of Middlesex, was expelled, acted as a neutral. By ——— daughter of ——— Copley, of Lancashire, esq. which lady hath been dead some years, he hath issue an only daughter, aged 15. Arms. 1. 4. A. a crescent S. 2. 3. G. a crescent in the first, another in the fess front for difference, counterchanged as the field. Crest on a helmet proper martled, G. doubles A; a wreath of his colours thereon, a greyhound sejant A. tied by the neck to a hawthorn-tree, fruited proper with a band O.

Proceeding on in the same hamlet, called Wood-end (which seems to be so named from its being for more than a mile the outward bounds of the wood, which was formerly encouraged in the park to which it adjoins, all the way from the Moss Lake), we pass a water or lake, called Wood-end lake, upon the Birmingham road, and on the right hand find a mansion, or the lands belonging thereto, named *The Sufford's*, most likely from some ancient owner of it. This was the estate of a considerable family in the parish, named Priest, which held lands in Fotherley or Radley Moor, lately in the possession of Samuel Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. deceased, a part of Broadfield, which passed to one Henry Murray, after to Thomas Biddulph of Fotherley. The Ox Leasows, and Holt Meadow in Fotherley, were afterwards sold to William Marlow of the same place, with many other estates of good value; all which, as far as I can learn, are alienated, but are known, at least what was generally sold by them in the decline of the family, by their being tythe-free, a subject of which I shall treat by and by.

The

The Priest families were settled at Wood-end or Footherley, for by these places are they distinguished. The first we note is in the reign of Charles II; but we cannot tell how much earlier they lived there from the uncertainty of records. In 1667, the widow Priest, and William her son, gave to the assessment for the loan to the king 5s. 6d. ob. being one quarterly payment; and, the same year, 9s. 6d. more as an addition to it. William of Wood-end, by Elizabeth his wife, had a son, James, born in August 1678; Elizabeth in June 1680; Ann in 1682, in which year he was churchwarden. James Priest, whom I suppose brother to William, by Ann his wife had issue Elizabeth, born in 1687. William abovesaid paid, in 1692, 3s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and one child with him. Francis Priest of Footherley, by Mary his wife had issue, Francis; William born in 1688; and John in 1696, who died in 1699; and a daughter Joyce, married to William Smyth in 1679; also Mary in 1701. This Francis died in 1712; and Mary his wife in 1709. One of the last male heirs of this family sold a considerable estate at Hill in Sutton-Colefield some time since, viz. about the year 1760 or 1761, and is since dead.

The mansion and lands were by the Priests conveyed to the Yardleys, who are also spoken of as people of property, and of long standing here. In 1598, Isabel Yardley of this parish was married to Rowland Greybrook. Mrs. Yardley paid, in 1677, 2s. 2d. a quarter to the royal aid; and to the addition made the same year 3s. 9d. Edward Yardley, gent. possessed this estate 22 Charles I. and seems to have had issue a son John, who, for himself and wife, paid 2s. poll-tax in 1692; who, by Elizabeth his wife, had issue John, born in 1685; she died in 1708. Ann Yardley, widow, died in 1700.

The family of old married to a daughter of —— Marbury, of Marbury and Dadsbury in Cheshire, and were long seated at

Kenilworth in Warwickshire. William Yardley, son of John, in the reign of Edward VI. married Elizabeth daughter to William Morton, of Cheshire, esq. 22 Henry VII. John Yardley was abbot of Kenilworth; and earlier, 1434 (Henry VI.), Lady Joan Beauchamp de Abergavenny left by will to John Yardley ten marks. They seem to have taken their name from Yardley in Worcestershire, near Birmingham, of which line I suppose Edward Yardley, gentleman, to have derived his descent.

Arms. Azure, a flag current Or, between three greyhounds Argent; the undermost of those in chief, Sable; that in base, regardant.

From the Yardleys, this estate at Wood-end came to the Colliers or Colyeres, of which Christopher Colyere, gent. possessed it, as his widow did also. Graciana, their daughter, sold it, in 1755 or 1756, to Thomas Bolton. who, in 1769, passed it to William Twyfe.

As this place pays a heriot to the lord of the manor, I shall say something in regard to such custom, which may suffice for all farther mention of it. Heriot is derived from the Saxon *here*, an army of heregeats, or heriots and reliefs, and *geat fusus*, distributed; which word *heregeat*, compounded, means provision for war, or a tribute or relief given to the lord of the manor for his better preparation to be in the army; and by the laws of king Canute the Dane, it appears that so many horses and arms were to be paid at the death as they were respectively obliged to keep in their life-time for the king's service; but this was paid long before Canute's time, and not only in warlike weapons, but in money and other things; for those thanes or nobles who held their lands of the Saxon kings, paid fifty mancuses, which were square pieces of gold, each worth two shillings and six pence of our money, four horses, and two swords, for an heriot.

A mo-

A modern ingenious writer says, “ Heriots affixed to copyholds and not abolished with other burdens in 12 Charles II.” (when greater liberties were given than were granted by Magna Charta itself) “ are of Danish origin, and now or late subsisted in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, and are a render of the best beast or goods (as the custom may be), to the lord on the death of the tenant, being a relic of the villein tenure, and had less hardship in it, as all the goods and chattels were the lord’s; and he might have seized them in the villein’s life-time. King William I. changed heriots compulfore, introduced by the Danes, into reliefs;” a payment now established by custom, which we observe had its rise since the Conquest, and for this reason, because heriot service was paid in oxen, horses, &c. under the Saxon government to the lord; but after William I. no tribute of oxen, horses, or other cattle, could be paid by the English, because they were generally stripped of all such goods by the Normans; therefore, instead of it, this payment of a sum of money was substituted, which is called a relief*; but even this payment was very uncertain till the statute of Magna Charta, for sometimes it was satisfied with money, and often with other effects; but by that statute it was fixed to a fourth part of the annual income, which was requisite by the law to support the dignity of the person to whom the inheritance was descended; if it was to the son of a knight, then he was to pay 3*l.* 15*s.* because 5*l.* *per ann.* was accounted a sufficient maintenance for a knight till the latter part of the reign of Edward I. and from 1 Edward II. such a one was to pay 5*l.* as that was then declared to be a fourth of such a knight’s yearly support; though Sir Thomas Smyth † says, such main-

* *A relevando*, quod feodum quasi collapsum eo relevetur.

† In his English Republick.

tenance was then 4cl. *per annum*; and Sir Edward Coke says, such fee consisted of 680 acres. If the inheritance came to a baron's heir, he was to pay 100 marks for a relief, because 400 marks *per annum* was at that time (*viz.* after Edward II.) an estate for a baron; if to the son of an earl, then he was to pay 100l. as 400l. yearly was an earl's estate; if to the eldest son of a duke, he was to give 200l. for a relief, 800l. *per annum* being a duke's estate; but this must be after king Edward III. who created the first duke after the Conquest; such estates being in those times reckoned sufficient to support those dignities. Heriots, which as we said king William changed into reliefs, to this day frequently remain in the shape of a double rent, payable at the death of a tenant.

We now note farther, that heriots, which yet continue among us, seem rather of Saxon original, and at first to be merely discretionary. These are mostly confined to copyhold tenures, and are due by custom only, which is the life of all estates by copy, and are perhaps the only instance, as the author of the Commentaries on the Municipal Law observes, where custom hath favoured the lord; for this payment was originally a voluntary donation, or gratuitous legacy of the tenant, perhaps in acknowledgment of his having been raised to a degree above villenage, when all his goods and chattels were at the mercy of the lord; and custom, which has on one side confirmed the tenant's interest in exclusion of the lord's will, hath on the other hand established this discretionary piece of gratitude into a permanent duty.

An heriot may also appertain to free land that is held by service and suit of court, in which case it is most commonly copyhold enfranchised, whereupon the heriot is still continued, and is due by custom. It is sometimes of the best live beast that the
tenant

tenant died possessed of, called in the 29th law of king William I. the *villein's releif*, sometime the best inanimate good, under which a jewel or piece of may be included; but it is always a personal chattel, which, immediately on the death of the tenant who owned it being ascertained, by the option of the lord becomes vested in him as his property. Agreeable to this custom, on the decease of — Beardfley, gent. who owned lands in Shenstone, a piece of plate was appropriated to the lord's use, which his relict, — Beardfley (now of Tamworth), exchanged for a payment of ten guineas. In some places there is a customary composition in money, as ten or twenty shillings in lieu of a heriot, by which lord and tenant are both bound, if it be indisputably ancient custom; but a new composition of this sort will not bind either party, for that amounts to a creation of a new custom, which now is impossible.

Some lands in this parish pay no great tythes; among these we may reckon the estate we are now treating of. The reason of it is, that in the 31st year of the reign of king Henry VIII. a statute was made, which enacts, that all persons who should come to the possession of the lands of any abbey then dissolved, should hold them free and discharged of tythes, in as large and ample a manner as the abbeyes themselves formerly held them. If such provision had not been made, most of these exemptions of tythes would have fallen with them, and the lands become tythable again; and from this original have sprung all the lands which, being in lay-hands, do at present claim to be tythe free; for, if a man can shew his lands to have been the property of such religious houses, and also immemorially discharged of tythes, it is a good prescription for not paying them, but he must shew both these requisites, for abbey-lands, without especial ground of discharge, are not discharged of
3 course;

course; neither will any prescription prevail in total discharge of tythes, unless it relate to such abbey-lands. Hence we discern the mistake of those persons among us who too positively assert, that such estates pay no tythes, only because they belonged to the family of the Priests of this parish, who had purchased the tythes of such estates, or had received them so discharged. Indeed it might be, that such families possessed and sold them at several times, and to different persons; and likewise, that these very lands now are free from such payment; but the best solution of this matter is found in the foregoing observations, which indicate, that such possessions had belonged before the dissolution and devastation made by king Henry VIII. to some religious house or abbey, and not unlikely to that of Osney near Oxford, to which the church itself appertained; neither may it seem an unreasonable conjecture, that these were called Priest's lands, as having been the property of the priests or clergy who resided in such religious house; farther, people in general, and especially the family of the Colyeres, have a tradition among them, that this estate was originally taken from the church.

Farther on stands a tolerable good house, which, though now used as a farm-house, was the residence of a good family named Sylvester, for several generations, though the older mansion seems to have been in the taste of those times, half timbered and plastered walls, and situate in a field opposite, a part of which remained long since the present was erected, which is built of brick, and is of a modern structure*.

The first of these persons that I can find certainly to have lived here, was Thomas Sylvester (about queen Elizabeth's days),

* Raised by Robert, in the reign of George I.

who had a son and heir James, in the reign of James I. that lived to a good old age, more than 90, mentioned in several deeds in 1638, 1690, and in November, 1691. In 1667 he paid 2s. 4d. quarterly assessment to the royal aid, as the tax was called; and again, with his mother, 2s. 7d. ob. the same year. He had issue five sons, and two daughters; Elizabeth married to Edward Thornton, of Pootherley; and Mary, to John Alcock, of Fradley; both persons of fortune. The sons were 1, Robert; 2, Nicolas*, a clergyman, who settled in Leicestershire, and left issue one son and a daughter; 3, Benjamin, who died at sea; 4, James of Bristol, who left children; 5, Joseph, who lived some time in Sutton parish, but afterwards was an officer in the army, and there died. Robert was of Thickbrome, and married Elizabeth †, daughter of William Heath, gent. of Hamerwick-Hall, by Sarah his wife, daughter of Richard Brandreth, of Shenstone Hall, esq. and had issue by her five sons; also daughters, of which one was wife of — Dawes, of Tamworth; the sons were, 1, Robert; 2, Nicolas, of Bangley and Tamworth, a person considerable for his fortune; 3, William, a clothier, who died of a fall from his horse; 4, James, who is mentioned to have paid 4s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and two maid servants; 5, John, who lived at Thickbroom, and left issue. Robert Sylvester (son of Robert) upon whom James his grandfather settled the Wood-end estate, married Elizabeth, sister of James, and daughter of Sampson Bulkley, of the Morelands in Staffordshire, gent. (by his wife Jane, daughter of Edward Lake, of Shenstone Park,

* Rector of Shurland. He died in 1687-8, and was buried at Shenstone the 21st of February.

† Who died 1716-17.

esq.), and had issue six sons and seven daughters; Elizabeth, born 1696, wife of Henry Price, a poor man, and now living in Shenstone village, who hath issue; Lydia died young; Mary and Jane living; Ann, Sarah, and Rebecca. The sons were, 1, Lake Sylvester, dead, and left one daughter; 2, James, born 1701, who had children, all dead; 3, Robert of Aldrich, who had a son Lake, that went to sea; 4, John, born 1712; 5, Sampson, born 1715; 6, Isaac, who died young.

Robert, father of these children, is often mentioned as a person active in business relating to this parish, and therein joined with John Aricson, Rowland Frith, Michael Brandreth, esqrs.; Christopher Colyere, John Brown of Fotherley, Robert Greisbroke, Thomas Dickenson, John Hardwick, Walter Astley, James Fletcher, Thomas Ward, John Jackson of Chesterfield, Richard Scott of Aston, gentlemen; with Edward Thornton, and other principal inhabitants; but, outliving his estate, was obliged to sell it either to the honourable and reverend Richard Hill, or to Samuel Hill *, of Shenstone Park, esq. from whom it passed to Thomas Hill, of Tern, esq. whose son Noel Hill, esq. represented Shrewsbury in parliament, except ten or twelve pounds *per ann.* which went to Samuel Egerton, of Tatton Park, esq.

* Samuel Hill purchased it with money of his uncle's left for that end.

M O S S.

At the foot of St. John's Hill, a quarter of a mile from the church to the South, and on the right side of the public road, stands a neat house named *The Moss*, from its situation in a mossy or marshy ground; which site seems to have been chosen originally for its nearness to the church, and plenty of water, which running from the house spreads itself over a considerable part of the road, and is thence called *The Moss Lake*; passing hence through the land of Samuel Egerton, esq. it joins the Park brook, and soon after, at Weeford, the Black brook. The mansion, to which great additions were made by the late John Dolphyn, esq. standing on a gradually rising ground, even from the Park itself, makes a pretty appearance. The present owner has fallen three rows of elm-trees which stood in the front, and thereby laid the house open to the view of travellers, which a few years since was so shut up with a court, walls, and elm-trees, with a walled garden, and evergreens, as to wear the aspect of solitude and retirement, and to appear more like a house of religious devotees than the seat of a gentleman. He hath also erected handsome offices and stables, and made other not unpleasing alterations, both in the mansion and in the lands about it. From the bottom of St. John's hill (on the summit of which stands the aforesaid clump of fir-trees, and in an adjoining field a clump of elms lately planted) are rows of elms, one on each side of the way as far as the church-piece or vicarage-flat, which are truly an ornament even in this delightful situation.

This place the possessor calls a manor ; so do the Collections of a late eminent physician * : his words are, “ In the manor of Shenstone was a manor called *The Manor of the Moss*.” At present it seems disputable, unless it be, as the law terms it, “ in reputation only,” which will not pass either in a fine or recovery by the name of a manor, because those are conveyances by record, which cannot be taken by intendment.

A manor (a grant that had its rise after the Conquest) was formerly a compass of land passed by the king to some baron or great person, for him and his family to dwell on, and to exercise some jurisdiction within that place, performing such services, and paying such yearly rent as the king did by such grant require ; and afterwards this grantee parcelled out this land to others, enjoining them to do such services, and to pay such rents as were appointed them ; so that, as the baron or great man was tenant to the king, the others of inferior degree to whom these lands were parcelled out, became lords of manors and tenants to him, and their grantees tenants to them. Hence we observe, that if the Moss were formerly a manor, it hath ceased to be so, seeing it is requisite that it should be one real or nominal. A real manor consists in demesnes and services, and a court baron as incident to it ; and it cannot be a real one if it wants freeholders, nor a customary one if it wants copyholders, as in both senses is the case of this place ; yet I have been informed, from good authority, that the lord of the manor of Shenstone pays an annual crown rent for this, as a manor (of old time) within that of Shenstone.

The Moss house, or some mansion near this spot, was the property of the barons of Hook Norton, till one of them, Henry

* Thomas Wilkes, of Willen-Hall.

D'Oyley, high constable of England, gave it to the abbey of Osney in Oxfordshire, whose monks erected a grange here for their residence, and that of their bailiffs, who collected the rents and tythes appertaining to the church, with which it went (as far as we can learn) till the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. after which it was granted to ——— Stanley, esq. of whom tradition speaks as related to the great family of the Stanleys, earls of Derby. The daughter of ——— Stanley, or the heiress of that house at the Moss, carried the estate by her marriage to one Dolphyn*.

We find the name of Stanley early in the parish records, in 1583, but nothing that ascertains the place of their residence, except the Stanleys, near Thornes Hall, are of the same lineage, or those of Lyndon, Overstonall, or Shenstone, all which are mentioned; but but we cannot discern which branch introduced the Dolphyns into this place. Their name originally was Swanshurst, so named from Swanshurst, an hamlet in the parish of Yardley, near Birmingham, where to this day remains, as I suppose, the elder branch of the Dolphyns. How they came to change their name is not very clear. The tradition among them is, that it was assumed in early times by their ancestor, upon the taking in the wars of France a standard or banner belonging to the dauphin, son of the French king. The probability we dispute not, but are not quite satisfied with this reason without good authority, seeing in former times it was not unusual for sons of the same parents to bear different surnames, either from remarkable circumstances attending them, their situation, as Swanshurst, which means a woody place where trees grow, but low on account of the unaptness of the

* See the Collections of Thomas Wilkes, M. D.

soil, much frequented by swans, a repetition of their christian names, or the like ; having no family accounts to refer to, we are, as heretofore, at a loss, but shall give what we can attain relating to the Dolphyns.

William Dolphyn, in the 19th year of the reign of Edward III, was one of the persons left in trust by Robert Folewood, first vicar of Tamworth church, in Warwickshire, afterwards united to Maxtoc priory, to find a priest who should celebrate divine service at the altar of St. Mary for all the living and dead of the parish, and for their benefactors ; also to say daily a *placebo* and *dirige*, with a special commendation of him the said Robert and his heirs ; to which purpose he left lands in that parish and Beaumont. In the 47th year of the reign of king Edward III. Richard Dolphyn, Richard Mountford, and others, founded a chantry in a chapel near Lapsworth church, in Warwickshire, giving for that purpose two messuages, two carucates of land, twelve acres of meadow ground, and 16s. rent, all in Tamworth, called Woodard's Lond, Heath Lond, and Listerley Field, which were confirmed by Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick, lord of the fee, for a priest to sing mass every day, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, St. Thomas the Martyr, and all the Saints. In the 49th year of the reign of king Edward III. Richard Dolphyn confirmed Thomas Barbour in the living of Preston Bagot, in Warwickshire. In 1379 Richard Dolphyn, prebendary of Maxtoc, and rector of Tamworth, dying, was buried there, and an inscription being set over him imploring prayers for the dead, it was ordered to be altered*.

These quotations from antiquity shew, that the name was as old as the reign of king Edward III. The

* Ricardum Dolfyn cerne, homo, locus tenet iste :
Æternam lucem ei dare ne dedignaris Christe.

The bishop, on complaint, caused it to be defaced, and the following substituted :
Jesus.

The parish records being lost, in which were the registered accounts from 1610 to 1655, we know not in what intermediate year between these dates the family settled at Shenstone, but, meeting with the name in 1659, conclude the person then mentioned to have been the son of that — Dolphyn who married — Stanley's daughter, of the Mofs. John Dolphyn*, in 1659, had issue John, baptized November 12 in that year; and by Sarah his wife, secondly, William, born in 1666; 3, Thomas, born 1672, died 1678; 4, Richard, born 1674; 5, George, 1675, expressly said to have been buried in flannel, October, 1678; the daughters were Ann, born 1662, died 1667; Sarah, born 1666; Damaris in 1668; Elizabeth in 1670. Sarah, wife of this John, died in 1679, and he in 1699. Of the children, William died in 1701; and Damaris was married in April, 1691, to Edward King of Worcester. In 1682, John Dolphyn, gent. was one of the two persons deputed to give and take possession of the several divisions of the Radley more lands, according to a decree in the high court of Chancery.

John, son of John Dolphyn aforesaid, settled at Stafford as an attorney at law, and there became clerk of the peace, and eminent in that profession. In the reign of king George I. he served in parliament for the borough of Stafford; was also steward to the dutchess of Hamilton or Queensbury, and to the

Jesus.

Ricardum Dolfyn cerne, homo, mortuum, locum tenet Christi.

Sed noluit locum Christi vivus intrare iste.

This is blotted out, and below are these words:

Supradictus Ricardus

obiit primo die

Octobris, anno

Domini 1592.

Dugdale's Warwickshire, 2d edit. p. 777.

* In 1677 he paid 7s. for a quarter's assessment of the royal aid.

earl

earl of Uxbridge, and others. He married twice; 1, to Helen, daughter of ——— Howe, with whom he had in the end an handsome fortune; 2, to Isabel Hoare, a widow, but had no issue by her. By the first he had three sons; 1, Howe, born 1690, who died a bachelor; 2, John, who also died unmarried; 3, Henry, born 1696; and daughters, 1, Sarah, born 1685, married first to ——— Edenfor, of Birmingham; secondly, to Paul Smyth, attorney at law, who lived both at Stafford and Shenstone. She survived him, and was buried at Shenstone in 1730, dying without issue. 2, Catharine, born 1692, died in 1724 of a consumption; 3, Damaris, wife of the Reverend J. Rann, A. M. now of Caldmere, near Walsal, late of the Delves in Wednesbury, and minister of West Bromwich, yet vicar of Rushal in 1769, aged 82; she is yet living, but advanced in years. Their issue were several sons that grew to manhood, and some married, but all died without issue; and two daughters; 1, Sarah, wife of ——— Mattox, attorney at law, and master in chancery, yet living in Salop, by whom she, deceasing about 1755, left issue seven children; 2, Damaris, wife of Peter Jones, minister of West Bromwich, and prebendary of the collegiate church of Wolverhampton, by whom she had issue two children, both dead, as well as the parents. Isabel, second wife of John Dolphyn, of Stafford, esq. was buried at Shenstone April 14, 1715. In 1692 I find both this John, and John Dolphyn, senior, resident at Shenstone; for, in the list of those who paid to the poll-tax that year is John Dolphyn, senior, mentioned to pay 1s. and John Dolphyn, junior, attorney, for himself, wife, and two children, 4s. This John died in 1724, in May, and was buried in the family vault in Shenstone church.

William

William, second brother of this John, was settled in London. By Catharine his wife, daughter and coheir of Thomas Hufley, of Lincolnshire, gent. he had issue, 1. Catharine, living in 1769 at Shenstone; 2. Sarah; and a son William; who all died young, and unmarried.

Howe, the eldest son, being for family reasons set aside in the inheritance, though he lived many years after;

John, the second son, was settled at the Moss in 1722, if not earlier; was many years in the commission of the peace, in which he acted with much reputation, and was an useful and valuable person in private life, continually employed in composing differences and exerting all his power for that purpose, for which he is by multitudes remembered, and spoken of by all in terms of gratitude. He died in July 1756, a bachelor, and was interred in Shenstone church upon the 26th of that month.

Henry afore said, youngest brother of this John, was an attorney in Stafford. He purchased the estate and mansion held by Samuel Whaley, of Fotherley, esq. and deceased in March, 1743-4, leaving issue by — his wife, daughter of — Vernon, and sister to the Reverend Mr. Vernon, of — Airly in Staffordshire, and to the wife of — Perrot, of Belland in Worcestershire, and of Edgbaston in Warwickshire, esq. one of his Majesty's justices of the peace, one son, John, and three daughters; 1. Sarah, wife of — Meiller, of Derby, esq.; 2. Catharine, wife of — Whitby, attorney at law of the same place; both are living, and have children; 3. Elizabeth, unmarried.

John succeeded his father in 1743-4, and his uncle John, of the Moss, in 1756, from whom he inherited an handsome estate at Shenstone, and elsewhere. This John Dolphyn purchased,

chafed, about the year 1764, an estate of 600l. *per annum*, or upwards, called Highford, in Gloucestershire (a feat and manor in the hundred of Slougher), of Francis Wanley, D. D. dean of Rippon, brother and heir to William Wanley, esq. of Highford, who died May 4, 1762. This estate was named *Elford* and *Elford Pastures*, in king Stephen's days, then valued at 28l. 10s. 2d. yearly: the farm appertaining to it was valued at 41s. 8d. and belonged to the abbey of Evesham in Worcestershire. I the rather mention this to shew what change is made in the worth of lands since that reign.

The present gentleman was appointed high-sheriff for the county of Stafford in 1760, and the same year carried up the county address to king George III. (an office which his uncle had before enjoyed in the reign of king George II.); he is also in the commission of the peace. In May, 1767, he married Margaret, daughter of —— Eeles, of Harley-street, Cavendish-square, London, esq. and hath issue a daughter, Maria, born in February, 1768.

John Dolphyn, esq. was educated at Eton school, and afterwards at Trinity college, Cambridge, and is now about thirty-eight years old. By Margaret, his said wife, he hath issue a son, Thomas Vernon, born June 18, and baptized September 13, 1769.

FOOTHERLEY.

F O O T H E R L E Y.

Footherley, or, as the old maps of Staffordshire have it, *Fofterley*, is an hamlet that has its beginning half a mile South-West of the church, extending itself from a brook so named, a mile and a half to Radley Moors on the right hand, and to the point of Wood-end on the left to the Birmingham road. The term seemingly derives itself of its site from Shenstone village, and of *be*, which in the old British tongue means a place * that lies unmanured and wildly overgrown. This place is not populous, containing only fourteen or fifteen houses (in which reckoning, we except the Boffes), though formerly there were many more, which are either suffered to fall, or are taken away, that the lands appertaining to them might encrease the remaining farms, agreeable to modern practice. Footherly, adjoining in a great measure to Wood-end, hath therefore many of its privileges in common with it, but in other respects hath the advantage, producing especially better barley; herein excelling all other lands in Shenstone, as well as the country round about it. In this district are some lands tythe-free, said to be so as having been the estates of —— Priest, who purchased a considerable part of the tythes; as others say, from their being church lands; a matter we have already spoken of under the account of Wood-end. The two hamlets have a good portion of land separated by the public road lying towards Sutton Cole-

* Verstegan's Antiquities.

field and Little Aston, called the Oldfield, being 25 acres of land; and Pleckfield, consisting of 30 acres, or thereabouts, each of which the inhabitants customarily enclose every third year, and cultivate for three seasons, then lay them open for the advantage of turning sheep upon them.

Near to these fields is Wood-end, or Footherley, common, which answers the same ends, and is therefore farther profitable; not to mention here what we noted of the land belonging to the paupers of Footherley, which is rented at the sum of five pounds ten shillings yearly.

Either from this, or a place of the same name, is a family called *Footherley*, of which John Footherley, esq. was in May, 1737, governor of the province of Pennsylvania.

The house now possessed by John Preston was formerly the property of a good family, named *Sylvester*, of which was Roger, who had issue Thomas, in the reign of Henry VIII. father* of Roger, born in 1579. Roger the elder died in 1585. Roger Sylvester, the younger, had John and James, who married Alice Collins, and died in 1603. John, the youngest son of Roger, of Footherley, deceased in 1601, leaving John, Robert, and James, who died in 1685. John died in 1669, and Ann, his widow, in 1674. Of this family we can find no more with any certainty.

The next possessors were named *Smyth*. How this family procured it is not said, but we find William Smyth, of Footherley, at the Restoration, who died there in 1663-4; and in 1679 William, his son, married Joyce, daughter of ——— Priest, of the same place; dying without issue, he left this estate to S. Atwood, afterwards wife of Edward †, son of James Handley, of

* And of Frances, born 1580; also of John.

† He married this Susanna Atwood, April 11, 1710.

Chesterfield, whose daughter and heiress carried it to Thomas Stanley, of Thornes; from him it was purchased by the late John Dolphyn, of the Mofs, esq. whose nephew and heir now enjoys it.

At a small distance, on the right hand, stands a neat mansion, delightfully situated, and facing the church. This is modern in a great degree, the present possessor having expended upwards of 800*l.* upon it. The old house, in all probability, was erected in the reign of queen Elizabeth, the earliest date I can trace the families of note who had their residence here; but another was built by — Brown, which the present gentleman altered at the abovesaid expence.

Francis Floyer was settled here in the time of queen Elizabeth, which gentleman I conjecture to have been a younger son of the Hintz family. He died in December 1601, and was buried at Shenstone. The first of the Floyers of this line was of Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, who left Richard, lord of the manor of Wetton in the Moorlands, of Uttoxeter Moor, a manor that he purchased upon the sale of it by the crown, then in lease for a long term, as appears on an inquisition taken in the 7th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, December 16. He left Richard of Hyntz (a seat and manor purchased by his grandfather, of Uttoxeter, of Edward Bassett*, esq. a younger son of Ralph Bassett, of Blore in Staffordshire), who was a barrister of the Middle Temple; he married twice, 1. — daughter of Sir Richard Weston, knight, one of the barons of the Exchequer, which lady died without issue; 2. Elizabeth, daughter of William, son of Zachariah Babyngton, living in 1660. Richard Floyer of Hintz was justice of the peace during the Usurpation; be-

* Of Hyntz, 1583, as in the Heralds Visitation.

fore him marriages were solemnized according to the act made in Cromwell's time. In 1667 Robert Greifbrook paid for —— Floyer to the royal aid. I find also Richard Floyer, who had issue a son Matthew, who had issue a daughter, wife of George Antrobus, of Birmingham, M. D. that died without issue; also Catharine, who died unmarried. In the reign of William III. lived at Fotherley, Ralph Floyer and Margery his wife. In 1707-8 died Lettice their daughter, and was buried at Shenstone. In the reign of George II. resided at the same place Charles Floyer, esq. afterwards heir to his brother —— of Hyntz, father by Sufanna —— his wife, to Ralph of Hyntz, 1769; which Charles had issue born at Fotherley; Charles in 1743, Mary in 1714, and Sufannah in 1745.

Of this family were Sir John and Sir Peter Floyer, knights; Sir Peter, brother of Sir John, of London, and Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, was a noted refiner in Foster-lane, London, in which situation he acquired an ample fortune. The relict of Sir Peter died in 1732, at Cheshunt; their children were a son, colonel of the fourth troop of life-guards, who died March 23, 1733, without issue, leaving the bulk of his fortune, about 6000*l. per annum.* to a sister, and a daughter, Letitia, who lived at Islington, near London, heir to her brother. Sir John, an eminent physician of Lichfield, married ——, daughter of —— Archibald * (with whom lady Elizabeth Stanhope, afterwards wife of Samuel Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. was educated), and had issue two sons, Archibald, who died without issue; and John, of Longdon near Lichfield, who had issue Sufanna, wife of Sacheverell Floyer, of Hyntz, by whom she had no issue; she secondly married George Lea, of Mayfield, and had

* Sir Henry Archibald, knight, of Lichfield, in 1673.

by him one daughter, wife of Lea, counsellor at law, of Matherfield in Staffordshire.

Sir John Floyer, knight, M. D. had a messuage and lands at Footherley, which were before the property of Edward Thornton; also land in the adjoining moors, which pays two wood hens, besides a chief-rent to the lord of Shenstone manor, which afterwards descended to his great grand-daughter, wife of the aforesaid counsellor Lea (who, besides other lands, enjoys in her right the manor of Matherfield); she disposed of the Footherley estate to the present John Dolphyn, esq. who took down the farmhouse, and annexed the land to other tenures. Sir John Floyer, knight, died at Lichfield January 31, 1733-4.

Of the abovesaid John Floyer, of London, we add, that he left by will a considerable estate to John Burnes Floyer, esq. of Aldershaw, near Lichfield, yet in his minority, only son of Richard Burnes, of Aldershaw (who deceased in 1766), by Anne Leonard, of Wednesbury in Staffordshire.

I have here placed together what related to the Floyers, yet we find other persons possessed of this mansion called Footherley hall, and lands about it, particularly a branch of the Sylvesters. John Sylvester seems to have sold it to the Browns, being expressly said in the rolls to have been the owner prior to this family. Samuel Brown was of Footherley soon after the death of Cromwell, if not during his usurpation. In 1666 Eleanor Brown was married to Nicholas Sylvester, who, if descended of John, as above, might induce this family to settle here, it being pretty sure that they came out of Salop, from Wellington, or some place near the Wreking. This Samuel Brown died here in September 1667; besides other children, he left John. In 1667, John Brown, gent. paid 3s. 6d. quarterly assessment to the royal aid, and to the addition made the
same

same year 6s; also 1s. for Perry's land. In 1674 John Brown, then called of Thornes hall, gent. purchased ten acres of land in the Broadfield, of James Adams of Fotherley; in 1682, sixteen acres of John Birch and his wife, under a lease of 500 years; that year he evidenced the receipt of a sum of money for the Radley Moor pieces, purchased by himself and others, acting herein as an agent to the Fryths. He was also one of the churchwardens in 1690. His wife was Grenada, widow of Edward, and mother of Rowland Fryth, esqrs. who died in February 1695-6, without any issue from her second husband; when he died * I cannot find out. This Grenada Brown left by will fifty pounds to purchase land, the profit of which was ordered to be distributed among the poor widows, or for want of such widows, among the poor inhabitants of Lynn, and the two Stonalls; this money remained in the Court of Chancery till 1721.

Samuel, of Fotherley-hall, brother to John of Thornes hall, had issue John, Samuel, and Anne, who survived her brothers, and lived some time after their decease, at the same house. She leaving it to a tenant, lived at Tatenel near Burton, to a good age, and dying in February 1762, was interred at Shenstone, having never married. Mary, wife of Thomas Dickinson, by whom she had children; she lived to be 90 years old, dying at Upper Stonal in January 1767. wife of Pryce, of Ludlow in Shropshire; Jane, her daughter, is or lately was living at the Grove, near Drakelow in Derbyshire; a fourth, Elizabeth, married Salt, of Hilton in this parish, yet living at Dudley with her son. John, the eldest, became heir to John, his uncle, of Thornes, and was bred to

* John Brown, gent. of Shenstone, was buried November 10, 1709.

the law, but did not choose to practise it, except as his knowledge of it enabled him to act in the capacity of a steward to lord Willoughby de Broke, at whose seat he mostly resided, and with whom he was highly in favour for his integrity. I suppose this to be the person Dr. Plott * means, when he observes, that “ Mr. Brown, of Fotherley, sent the trunk of a fir-tree taken “ out of the Peat-moore to captain Lane for his examination,” or his father more probably, from the time of its date, in the reign of James II. In 1692, Mr. Brown paid 6s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and four servants, and one pound one shilling to the militia, and towards horses to mount them; where we must understand it of his father or uncle, seeing this John of Fotherley was never married. Being an active man in behalf of the parish, upon the 12th of June, 1721, it was agreed, that the legacy of Mrs Grenada Brown to the poor widows of Over Stonall, Nether Stonall, and Lynne, which, by a decree in chancery then lately made, was affirmed to be due unto them, remaining in the hands of a master in chancery, should be got out of that court; and that Mr. John Brown, of Fotherley, should be employed to get the same: signed by many persons present, Christopher Golyere, J. Jackson, Fr. Rawlins, W. Hardwick, Edw Handley, Geo. Hawe, T. Biddle, Nic. Wyatt, Rd. Steel, &c.

The cause was accordingly prosecuted, and the money recovered; but part of it being afterwards lost, it was judged most prudent to lay it out in land, and with the said money was bought the Poor's piece, adjoining to Chesterfield ley, the rent of which is yearly distributed as directed in the last will of the aforesaid Grenada Brown. Mr. Brown, in 1713, was concerned in a

* See the History of Staffordshire.

lease of lands from James Adams, gent, of Footherley, to William Henry, of Wood-end; that year he witnessed a deed passed between Joseph and Thomas Alsop, of Little Hay, and is mentioned for the last time in the records, May 29, 1723. At his death he enjoined his executors to dispose of his estate.

Oliver Brown, in 1667, paid to the royal aid for Pool-bridge meadow and mills, with John Brown, gent.

Samuel (brother and heir to John), studying divinity, entered into holy orders, took the degree of Doctor in Divinity, and was made chaplain to queen Anne. By Elizabeth his wife, he had issue, 1. John, who died young; 2. Francis, a clergyman, yet living at Old Swynford, near Stourbridge in Worcestershire, who married Anne, daughter of ——— Sadler, of Whitacre in Warwickshire, and hath several children (3), a daughter.

Samuel Brown died in January 1724-5, and was buried the 30th, at Shenstone. Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Brown, died in 1703.

In 1715 died Mr. Edward Brown, of Wiggington near Tamworth, and was buried here.

At the same time that Henry Pitt * held the farm, lived in this mansion we are treating of ——— Turton, esq. son of ——— Turton, of Orgrave in Alrewaves, near Lichfield, descended of William Turton of the Oaks in West Bromwich, by John his younger son, about the reign of queen Elizabeth. This gentleman was unmarried when this was written, but had left Footherley many years.

The next family of note resident here, was Charles Floyer, esq. after of Hints, who had children born here, as before ob-

* 1736, and afterwards.

served, and, dying a few years since, left three sons, and two daughters; 1. Catharine, wife of Thomas Levett, of Whittington (brother to John, of Whichnore and Lichfield, late a candidate to represent that city in parliament), by whom she had issue; (2) Mary, wife of Humberstone Cawley, esq. of Guerfylt, near Wrexham, in Denbighshire. Of the sons, Charles, the second, lived at Sutton Colefield; Sacheverell, the youngest, was in the Manchester trade; Ralph, the eldest, son and heir, a gentleman of fair reputation, resided at the family seat at Hints.

After Charles Floyer, came to this seat John Porter, a gentleman who had followed trade in Birmingham, and retired from business; he died in November 1731, aged 43; and Sarah, his widow, in November 1741, aged 41; both on the same day of that month, *viz.* the 29th.

Porter's family was succeeded by Samuel Whaley, esq. son of Daniel, by —— daughter and heiress of —— Wright, which Daniel was third son of —— Whaley, esq. of an ancient house at Whaley, in Lancashire; whence the name. Of this gentleman, well known for his benevolence and charity, I may not say much, lest I should give offence; nor ought I to say less than that all his deportment is that of the well-bred man, and the Christian. His wife is —— daughter of —— Blackham, nephew or great nephew of Blackham, of London, created by king William III. in 1696, a baronet. He bore Az. 2 bars between 9 cross croquets floré. This Samuel Whaley hath no issue.

Footherley Hall is held in lease by the afore said gentleman for the lives of himself and wife, but is the property of John Dolphyn of the Moss, being purchased of the Browns by Henry Dolphyn, of Stafford, attorney at law.

Adjoining to it, is a small house, and farm, which went with this, except that it was at one time the property of the Thorn-ton, who had other lands in this hamlet, *viz.*

The house and grounds lately in the possession of Thomas Badkyn, deceased, in right of his wife, and of Wygan, and of Benjamin Dawson, of Coventry, who married the daughter and heiress of Thornton, by Ann his wife; after his decease married to Thomas Badkyn. This estate was, before Thornton, in Walter Aftley; and earlier in William Priest*.

The Thorntons, who were settled here in queen Elizabeth's reign, if not sooner, possessed also lands that were John Syl-vester's, part of Radley Moor, and Moss Moor. Lately Eliza-beth Thornton had a messuage and garden in Shenstone village, which William Thornton received from Sarah and Ann, daugh-ters and coheirs of Thomas Cook, which Elizabeth, or William, sold to Oakes, whose daughter Mary, wife of Thomas Alsop of Edinghall, enjoys them.

In 1583 died Agnes Thornton; soon after we find Nicolas and Thomas, probably her sons, which last had several chil-dren. In the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth we find John Thornton, of Fotherley, who had issue. 22 Charles I. William, who owned Moss Moor, was witness to a deed passing lands from Roger Adams to James Fletcher, of Fotherley. In the same reign, John Thornton was made one of the attorneys to enfranchise some copyhold lands in Fother-ley. In 1665 Nicolas lived at Little Hay, in Shenstone. In 1662 William, of Fotherley, had a part of Radley Moor from the lord of the manor, Edward Thornton being one of the at-torneys, with John Dolphyn, to give and take possession of them for that purpose, in the presence of Edward Thornton, ju-

* See above, under *Shenstone* and *Wood-end*.

nior, and Robert, with others. Edward sold lands in the same Moor to Robert Sylvester, of Wood-end; and, in 1721, was one of the persons who signed the agreement to recover the legacy of Grenada Brown from the Court of Chancery. The aforesaid estate, in the possession of Thomas Badkyn's widow, and Benjamin Dawson, was sold in 1768 to the lord of the manor.

A little farther, on the left hand, stood a house called *Veres*, from its owner, before the estate of Cannon, with the lands appertaining to it, and formerly Nicolas Wyatt's, who were settled here in the reign of queen Elizabeth. William Wyatt died at Shenstone in 1580, and left issue. Nicolas, in 1602, married Mary Higginbotham, and had Nicolas of Fotherley, who, by Elizabeth his wife that died in 1656, had William, born in 1635. Thomas Wyatt, of Fotherley, was married to Sarah Miller, of Chesterfield, according to Cromwell's ordinance, before Richard Floyer, of Hints, justice of the peace, in 1656. Nicolas, of Fotherley, died in 1699, and Sarah, his widow, in 1700. There were other branches of them in Upper and Nether Stonall. In 1667 William and Nicolas, of Fotherley, with Thomas, paid to the royal aid. In 1692 Sarah Wyatt, widow, of this hamlet, William, and his wife, paid 3s. poll-tax.

The Veres were even lately a considerable family in the neighbourhood, and at Aftley in Warwickshire, as they are now at London; in all probability derived of some younger branch of the great house of Vere, of which Aubrey was created earl of Oxford by Maud the empress, and king Henry II. her son, which title ended in Aubrey, the 20th earl, in 1703. The name is from Vere, a town in Zealand. Some, rather too fanciful, derive the name from Verus, a Christian (anno Christi

Christi 41), ancestor of Marcus Antonius Verus, the Roman emperor, and of Milo de Vere, duke of Angiers and Mayence (ann. 778), general to Charles the great, whose sister he married.

In later times I find —— Vere a chief agent of Oliver Cromwell, and sent by him to execute business (under a particular commission) with cardinal de Retz, a noted French statesman. Of him arose, as some have it, a wealthy family in London, which had lands at Shenstone. Joseph Vere owned this estate at Fotherley, which one of the name * and line sold to Charles Symphon, of Lichfield, attorney at law, a few years since. In 1643-4 the committee at Stafford allowed William Vere to pass through that town, on his paying 30l. In June 1644, Mr. William Vere, of Hints, was ordered to pay to the committee 5l. on their propositions, but, as the committee were unacquainted with his circumstances, —— Swynfen, esq. capt. Barbour, and others, should add or lessen that sum. In 1651, Joseph Vere, of Astley in Warwickshire, was trustee in a marriage-contract between John Clark of that place and Alice Wyatt of Shenstone. In 1701 Richard Vere married Ann Ashmole, of Wood-end in this parish, and had issue Mary, afterwards wife of Job Serjeant; and Ann Vere, widow, died in 1753.

Arms of Vere; quarterly Or and Gules, a mullet, Or.

The neat mansion, near Thornton's, belonged to the family of Fletcher, who long resided here; of which name we find in 1589, William, Rowland, Thomas, Francis, and John, who married Agnes Levett, in 1590. John had issue a son, Francis, born 1598. John Fletcher, of Fotherley, died in

* A banker of London.

1602. James, of Footherley, had John, by Dorothy his wife, which Dorothy died in 1658. John married Mary Wotton, and died in 1680. James Fletcher, of Footherley, gent. (son of Francis or James, by Elizabeth his wife) by Mary his wife had issue two sons, Richard, and Francis, who died an infant; also two daughters, Mary, who died unmarried; and Eleanor, who married Cooke, of Stone, attorney at law, and steward to John lord Gower. James built the present house, and died in 1722. Richard married, 1., of Stone; 2. Anne, daughter of William Hardwick, of the Boffes. Richard, and Anne, his wife, died the same day, and were entombed together, November 5, 1734, leaving no issue; he passed his estate by will to Francis Salt, of Lichfield, who had married his cousin-german; but Cook's son disputing the validity of the will, much of the estate was wasted; and at length the whole, at Footherley, was sold to Stephen Sympfon, of Lichfield, attorney at law, in whose family it still remains.

In the 22d year of the reign of Charles I. James Fletcher bought Madleze-field, in Footherley, of Roger Adams, with other lands, lying near his mother Cecily's land, to which purchase Thomas Rugeley, William Thornton, James Fletcher, &c. were evidences. James Fletcher, of Footherley, and James his son, in 1687, exchanged Wood-end piece with Francis Priest, for lands in the Small-field, paying over and above to the said Francis Priest the sum of forty and two pounds. This family had likewise a messuage and lands in Footherley, or Wood-end, afterwards the property of Robert Sylvester.

In 1667, James Fletcher paid 5s. 10d. to the royal aid, as assessed; and the same year 10s. 3d. to the additional assessment on that account. In 1692, James Fletcher paid 2s. to the poll-tax, for himself and man.

The

The farm lately in the tenure of Thomas Biddulph, and of John, his son, now of John Dolphyn, esq. was formerly the estate of the Grendons; whether descended of those concerned in the manor itself is uncertain. Some fields in Shenstone bear the name of Grendon's leasows, formerly belonging to the Heaths of Hamerwich, now to the aforesaid gentleman; and, most likely, in former times to the Grendon family. Thomas Grendon died at Fotherley in 1656-7.

These lands were afterwards in a family of the Symonds, of this parish, of which was Henry, who, in 1596, married Alice Stanley; he died in 1600. Henry and Joan Symonds had issue James, born in 1603; and Joan in 1609. Thomas was buried here in 1607; and Ellen in 1609. Thomas Passaw and Elizabeth Symonds were married in 1686; and in 1713 Joshua Symonds married Margaret, daughter of Sedgwick, of Little Aston, gent.

The above said farm is John Dalton's, esq.

Near this is a farm in the tenure of John Marlow, which, with lands about it, is the property of Slaney, or his heirs; it was formerly the estate of Thomas Rugeley, esq. afterwards it passed to the Colliers, of which family John Collier had it, and after him Benjamin Collier; from them it came to the Clays; and since to Morton Slaney, gent. whose sister enjoys it.

The Clays possessed likewise a messuage and lands in Shenstone village; afterwards in the hands of Samuel Hill, Thomas Hill, and now of Noel Hill, of Terne, esq. In 1661, William Clay, with Alexander and Thomas Warde, of Wood-end, witnessed a deed of Rowland Alsop's, of this place; he died in 1664-5. Henry deceased in 1685. Thomas, of Shenstone, in 1712, married Elizabeth Grice, of Womborn, and had issue

Mary (1714); Elizabeth, daughter of and Mary Clay, was born 1724-5. In 1667 Clay, widow, paid to the royal aid.

Near the farm lately held by John Biddulph are the remains of a tolerably good mansion, long possessed by a family named Adams, who had considerable estates. Francis Adams died in 1589. John married Joan Stanley in 1596, at which time John, Roger, and Thomas, had families in this parish. Roger had issue John, born 1597, whose son seems to be Roger*, father of John and James, and a daughter Eleanor. In the 3d year of the reign of king Charles I. the two lords of this manor enfranchised for a sum of money, then paid to Rowland Fryth, their agent, the messuage and lands of John Adams, and Alice (Sylvester) his wife, at Footherley, paying to the said lord one shilling yearly, and one hen, upon the 10th of January for ever, and doing suit and service at the court baron held after Easter and after Michaelmas-day. In the 22d year of the reign of king Charles I. Roger Adams, and Mary (Higgon) his wife, sold lands lying near the Bromleys, George's, and Moss Moor, three felions in Broadfield ground, lying on the Flax Butts, towards Radley Moor; one felion in Highfield, near the land of Edward Yardley, gent. and . . . Wyatt; with a snut, named Small-ends; the deed is attested by Thomas Rugeley, William and Thomas Thornton, John Riddings, and James Oldfield. He also bought of John and Alice, his parents, a messuage and lands in Footherley; and sold them, in 1661, to John his son. John died, as I think, unmarried in 1670. James sold ten acres in Broadfield (in the reign of Charles II.) to John Brown, of Thornes, which before were the estate of John Collier, and

* Living in 1667.

had passed to Roger and John Adams, his father and brother. In 1667, Roger and Joseph Adams paid 3s. 6d. a quarter to the royal aid, and the same year 6s. addition. Roger died in 1670.

To James above said Elizabeth Higgons, of Aftbury, in Hales-Owen, Shropshire, left by will an estate at Aftbury. In 1662, he was one of those persons who exhibited a bill in chancery against Edward Fryth, lord of this manor, to compel him to an agreement for enclosing waste ground at Footherley, in which business they succeeded in 1682. In 1667, he settled in trust to Thomas Ward, of Shenstone, gent. and Henry Sedgwick, Smallfield field-piece, New Meadow, Broad Meadow, twelve acres in Broadfield, Highfield, and Pleck Moss-field, as a dower for Mary his wife, daughter of — Sedgwick. In the reign of Charles II. (1673) Rowland Fryth, Walter Fowler, of Penford; Thomas Scott, of Great Barr; and Charles Hinton, vintner, of London, upon the payment of 50l. to Rowland Fryth, confirmed James Adams's right to land in Radley Moor.

In 1634 Priest sold lands to Walter Fowler, in Footherley. . . . Priest had sold lands here to Anne Darleston, of Elford, which the said Walter, in 1691, assigned over in trust for Jac. Adams, son of James, as appears in a deed tripartite between Walter Fowler, of Penford, on the first part; William Priest on the second; and John Day, of Sutton-Colefield, and Jac. Adams, on the third part; for which the last-named person was to pay 6d. yearly chief rent. In 1692, Walter Fowler re-purchased part of the same estate; which Walter was descended of William Fowler, who married the daughter and heir (Cecily) to Nicolas de Englefield, grandson of Richard, of Foxley in Buckinghamshire, in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI. William by Cecily Englefield had issue; 1. Richard, chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaster, whose son and heir, Sir Richard, in

1528, was of Rycot in Oxfordshire: 2. Thomas, esquire of the body to king Edward IV. of whom came Walter Fowler, of Penford in Staffordshire.

James Adams, son of James, was born in 1674. In 1688 he, or his father, levied a fine for his Birches piece; that year he bought lands named Bromley Riddings, of John Darby, of Little Aston, and lands in the Pleck Moss; also lands called the Bothams, with some parts of Highfield and Broadfield, and then possessed Dukesfield, in Fotherley, and land in Little Sutton. In 1690, he purchased a messuage and lands in the Oldfield, Netherfield near Pickharefield, in the Broadfield, and Highfield; a croft in this hamlet; and a piece in Wood-end, part of the Bothams, of Abraham Griffin, Edward Jackson, of Little Hay, and Susan, sister of Abraham, left them by John Sylvester, deceased. In 1691, he purchased of William and Elizabeth Priest, Webb'scroft lands in Smallfield, near James Sylvester's and John Yardley's, adjoining to the Broadfield, in the Broadfield, on Radley Moor Flatts, and in the Moor, Webb's flatt, in the Great and Little Pleckmoft, on Hare-hedge, and in the Oldfield. In 1713, James Adams bought two burgages in Sandfordstreet, Lichfield; and sold Smallfield piece to Richard Smyth. Dying without issue, his sisters were his heirs, of whom Elizabeth sold * her moiety at Fotherley to Joseph Alfop, and died in 1738.

Joseph Alfop was of Little Hay, of a family that had lands there in the year 1659. His estate at Fotherley descended to his four daughters, Anne, wife of John Collins, of Hints; Elizabeth, wife of William Whywell, of Birmingham; Sarah, wife of John Cooke, who had this mansion in his wife's right; and

* 5 George II.

Eleanor, wife of Rowland Collins, of Little Hay, to whom this house passed, with lands about it, by agreement; and at present is in his widow and son.

In this hamlet William Sylvester had a house and farm, which went with his daughter and heir in marriage to Thomas Hinkes, of Anstrey in Leicestershire, from whom the lands passed by purchase to John Dolphyn and Stephen Sympson, but the house was burnt by accident.

Thomas Biddulph, of Fotherley, owned lands in Broadfield and Fotherley; now in his sons, Thomas and John, both of Whitacre in Warwickshire.

R A D L E Y M O O R.

Radley Moor End is a small hamlet, with few houses, but containing in it the Moor, commonly reckoned at 340 acres, though both are more usually comprized under Fotherley, to which they adjoin, as they do upon the Aston road to Wood-end.

In the year 1662, James Adams, of Fotherley, and others, who had a right of common in the waste-ground called Radley Moor, entered into an agreement (as it should seem, upon some condition before made between them and the lord of the manor, to exhibit a bill in the High Court of Chancery, to oblige Edward Fryth, esq. lord of the manor of Shenstone, to consent

sent to the enclosing of the said Moor; to this the Court of Chancery assented, and a commission was thereupon issued out (after a decree was made), setting forth each person's share, and commissioners were deputed for that purpose; conveyances were likewise ordered to be drawn; but before they could be executed the said Edward Fryth, esq. died. Upon the decease of the lord of the manor, the fee-simple was in Rowland Fryth, of Thornes Hall, esq. son and heir of Edward, who, in 1682, April 7, as appears by an indenture made between him and James Adams, confirmed the agreement made with his brother, according to a decree of the Court of Chancery, by which Radley Moor should have been divided in eighteen equal parts, of which William Thornton and James Sylvester, of Weeford, were to have two parts; and one part to be disposed of for the use of the poor, as the major part of the owners should from time to time appoint, each division paying 6d. yearly, *viz.* 3d. upon the 25th of March; and 3d. upon St. Michael's day, to Edward and Rowland Fryth, their heirs and assigns, for ever. John Birch, of Little Aston, had one share, who, after the enclosure, but before a conveyance was made to him by Edward or Rowland Fryth, esqrs. borrowed 120l. of William Petty, of Fasely in Warwickshire, gent. and for securing it and interest, the said John, and Elizabeth his mother, upon the 20th of March in the 23d year of the reign of king Charles II. amongst other lands, &c. sold and passed over his share of Radley Moor, being 16 acres; William Petty conveyed his right to James Adams; and, as 50l. was paid to Edward Fryth, according to a covenant before made, and 50l. more to Rowland Fryth, esq. the said Rowland passed it for ever to James Adams, and his heirs, paying 6d. yearly, free from all claims under Edward his father, or Rowland his grandfather, deceased; James Adams
was

was also allowed seven years to confirm his title, at his own expence; and Rowland Fryth hereby reserved to himself the liberty to turn the water, and make trenches and bridges on the said land.

John Dolphyn, of Shenstone, gent. and Edward Thornton, of Fotherly, were appointed jointly to give and take possession, dated April 7, 1582. Rowland Fryth sealed and delivered in the presence of John Swynfen, Joseph Surton, and George Bulkley. Edward Thornton gave James Adams possession; present Edward Thornton, jun. Robert Thornton, W. Whiston, and Thomas Lander.

The several portions allotted were by agreement to consist of twelve acres, though they are considerably more; that called Birches, is in the deed said to be sixteen acres, owing, as supposed, to his advancing more than his equivalent towards the law-suit with the lord of the manor. The whole of Radley Moor, generally speaking, is in the hands of the following persons, *viz.* John Dolphyn, esq. who hath the parts which were Stanley's, Brown's, Floyer's or Lea's, Sylvester's or Hynke's (except what Stephen Sympfon, gent. possesses), and what was lately in the tenure of John Biddulph; of Thomas and Noel Hill, esqrs., formerly Allen's, and others; of Stephen Sympfon, gent. or Charles his son, formerly Fletcher's and Vere's, with lands in Radley Moor-end; of William Tenant, esq. called Thornton's, &c. of the coheirs of Adams and Alfop, who enjoyed also Birches; of Morton Stanley's heirs; of John Marlow, late William's, formerly Priest's. Robert Sylvester's land in this Moor came to Lake his son (except what —— Hill, esq. purchased), whose widow passed it to her second husband, —— Shackle, who, with —— Bedford their son in-law, sold it

it to John Dolphyn, esq. in 1768. In the reign of king William III. James Philips possessed some part of Radley Moor; as did John Sylvester, and —— Dolie.

B A G O T S.

Bagots are certain lands lying to the upper part of Footherley, towards the aforesaid Moor, in quantity fifty acres; they were formerly the property of Edward Fryth, esq. and were by him, or some of his family, conveyed to John Dolphyn, great grandfather to the present John Dolphyn, of the Moss, whose property they are.

L I T T L E H A Y.

Little Hay is an hamlet, one mile South from Shenstone church, and is not only the confines of the parish, but of the county of Stafford towards Warwickshire, Sutton Colefield reaching on this side to the road * between Little Aston and Weeford. The hamlet is but of mean appearance, having in it eleven houses, chiefly of poor folks.

* Through Little Hay.

The name seems to have been given it to distinguish it from the larger Hay, called in old writings *Ashe Hay*, near it.

The Thickbromes * seem to have been a very old family in or near this place, taking their name from a manor in Weeford on the Blackbrooke, one mile only from Little Hay.

Richard de Thickbrome was a person of note in this place, (40 Henry III.), and owned the manor so named. In 1635, William Thickbrome, gent. of the city of Lichfield, and Mary his wife, had issue William; and, in 1638, Thomas, as I should suppose a branch of this family, settled at Little Hay during the Usurpation, for, in 1655, Ralph Thickbrome settled lands upon Margaret Cook of this village, on a covenant of marriage drawn up between them, to which were evidences Robert Greifbrook, Edward Fletcher, and others. In 1667, Ralph Thickbrome, of Little Hay, was one of those persons who were assessed to the payment of the royal aid.

John Thickbrome of this place, in the reign of king Charles II. and Margaret his wife, purchased lands in Little Hay of the two lords of Shenstone manor, which came afterwards into the possession of William Bryan, of Thickbrome, and Isabel his wife. Bryan's heir sold these lands to Walter Rawlins, who, in 1672, October 15, passed them, or a part of them, to Thomas Alfop, to which were witnesses, John Lane, Thomas Potte, Edward Gerard, and Thomas Stephenson. William and Richard Dixey, by deed, gave consent to the sale of the estate by Bryan's heir.

On April 13, in the 13th year of the reign of Charles II. William Dixe, or Dixey, of Sheldon, and Richard Dixe of Sut-

* Humphry Thickbrome, of Thickbrome (18 Eliz.), paid 3l. 6s. 8d. subsidy, and found one horseman for the militia.

ton Colefield, fold to Walter Rawlins' lands adjoining to that of Ralph Thickbrome, and Sir John Digby's, of Mansfield Woodhouse in Nottinghamshire, near to Shenstone Park, late in the tenure of John Thickbrome. Witnessed by Dorothy Lake, Catharine Thickbrome, and others.

William Cotterel, of Sutton Colefield, and Phillis Thickbrome, were married at Shenstone, August 1, 1786.

In Little Hay lately lived Richard *Arblaster*, and still belongs to this parish, descended of an ancient family in the county of Stafford, which derives its name from its office in war, *Arcubalistarius*, or *Arblaster* (Archer). Arblaster hall, in Longdon, was, in the 25th year of the reign of Edward III. the seat of Adam de Arblaster, who was witness, 35 of that king, to the deed of Richard Fitzwilliam Hanways de Hanfacre conveying lands in Aldershall, near Lichfield, to Eleanora de Hanfacre. His son and heir was James (in the reign of Richard II.) who had issue Richard, in the reign of Henry VII. He married Matilda, sister of Sir Lewis Bagot, knight, and daughter of John Bagot, of Blythfield, esq. by whom he had issue Humphry Arblaster, of Longdon, and Rowland, or Richard. Humphry (in the reign of Henry VIII.), by Catharine his wife, daughter of Thomas Laynham, of Staffordshire, esq. had issue a son Thomas, in the reign of Edward VI. who married ——— daughter of ——— Martyn, and had issue, 1. George; 2. John; 3. Michael; also 3 daughters; Jane, wife of William Holland, of Caldwell in Derbyshire; Alice; and Frances, wife of Richard Callangwood. George, in 1583, possessed Arblaster hall, other lands in Longdon, Dosthill, and Mancestre, in Warwickshire; but, Thomas his father, in the reign of Edward VI. sold his share of Mancester manor, which came into the family before the 11th year of the reign of Henry VI. to Thomas Lewis, gent. George Arblaster,

blaster, esq. had issue Thomas*, who took to wife Anne, daughter of Ralph Egerton, esq. of Wrine Hill, and had issue by her Edmund, and Edward, father of Edward, who died in May 1669, leaving children by Anne his wife (who died in 1693), daughter of Francis Wolfrestan, of Stafford, esq. by Frances his wife, 1. Edward; 2. Edmund; 3. Richard; also 5 daughters; Frances, who died in 1772; Ann died in 1734; Mary, who died in 1738; and Grace, who deceased in 1731-2; Susanna died March 4, 1740; another Mary died November 1, 1741, whom I take to have been the wife of William Arblaster†, a younger son of George abovesaid, who, by Mary his wife, had a daughter, Mary, born in 1653, but died in her minority. Edward, eldest son of Edward, by Ann Wolverstan, died without issue. Edmund, of Longdon, esq. (or as is sometimes said Edward) had issue George, born in 1666; Edmund‡, in 1666-7, and died in 1670; Frances, born September 6, 1662; and Mary, born in 1674. This Edward, the father, died in March 1690, aged 63. Edmund had issue Edward, born in January 1699; 2. Edmund in January 1701-2; 3. Theophilus, born in March 1703, and died in 1721, and, as I conjecture, another son Richard; Mary, born in 1709. This Edmund was in the commission of the peace, and died in 1732. Edward, his eldest son, died in 1735, who left one only son, of Over Stonall (1769), yet unmarried. This gentleman, in 1769, sold to Francis Cobbe, of Lichfield, esq. a capital messuage, the old family seat in Longdon, upon which was a modern-built mansion-house, with 82 acres of rich arable, pasture, and meadow

* Admitted by the heralds, 1583, to be of a genteel descent, and to bear a coat.

† William died in 1703, aged 89.

‡ Or Edward.

land;

land; a messuage, with 180 acres elsewhere, and a farm called Stoney Well, with upwards of 72 acres of land in the same parish.

One of the Richard Arblafters had children; a son or grandson of which is Richard, of whom we first spoke, and who resided in Little Hay, whose family is next male representative of the ancient family, whose lineage we have given.

Arms of the Arblafters; Ermine, a cross-bow bent, Gules, stringed Or. Crest, a greyhound's head upon a wreath.

A branch of the Thorntons, spoken of in Footherley, lived in Little Hay, and possessed lands here, of which was Nicolas, living in 1665; and, after him Thomas, whose estate came into the family of Collins, yet remaining, descended from Robert Collins, who had issue John, Rowland, and others. John had issue Rowland, father or uncle to Rowland of Little Hay, who died in December 1767, leaving issue John and Rowland; also two daughters; —, wife of Robert Collins, of Hintz, related before to this family, and —.

The family of Collins possess the estate formerly Walter Webster's, John Asplin's, and John Smart's, in this village, and a moiety of Alfop's, with a large mansion in Footherley.

In this place I find a gentleman's family called *Potte*, of which was Thomas Potte in 1667. How long they continued here is uncertain, but one of them married Joan, eldest daughter of the reverend William Grace, vicar of Shenstone, as we have already remarked.

The *Alfops* were of note in this hamlet, originally of Alfop, a village in the county of Derby, whence the name.

In the 12th year of the reign of Charles II. Rowland Alfop, of Little Hay, purchased a tenement and lands there from Ro-

ger Walker, and Edmund Wharton, both of Moseley, to which were evidences Alexander and Thomas Ward, with Richard Newton. The same premises were sold to R. Walker and Edward Wharton, by Thomas Collins, and Joyce his wife, who bought them of the lords of the manor of Shenstone. In 1667 Thomas and Rowland Alfop paid to the royal aid levied in this parish.

In 1671 Rowland, and Anne his wife, passed over a messuage and lands in Little Hay to Thomas their son (living in 1687), which was witnessed by Thomas Ward and John Cotterel.

In the third year of the reign of James II. Richard Alfop, of Brynton in Staffordshire, sold lands in Nether Stonhall to Alexander Adcock. In 1692, Joseph Alfop, of Little Hay (living in 1713), paid 2s. poll-tax for himself and his wife. He had issue Thomas, to whom, in 1706, he passed Katecroft, and other fields, near Little Hay Brook; and Joseph, who, in 5 George II. bought a moiety of James Adams's estate at Footherley of Elizabeth Adams, his daughter and coheir; also two daughters, Alice, and Elizabeth, if no more. In 1713 Joseph Alfop the elder sold to William Stanley, of Shenstone, Leatscroft, &c. for the term of 99 years. Besides these, we meet with Richard Nicolas, Thomas, and Henry * Alfop (living in 1684), in this place. Joseph Alfop the younger died without issue male, but left four daughters, coheirs, two of which are living, Elizabeth Whywell, one of them, died in 1769.

In the reign of Henry VIII. or earlier, a branch of the *Sylvesters* resided here. In 1579, James Sylvester, of Little Hay,

* In the 20th year of the reign of Charles II. he purchased an estate at Hill in Sutton Colefield.

married Alice, daughter of ——— Collins, and had issue by her Robert, Alice, wife of John Adams, and Elizabeth. In 1601, George Sylvester was of this hamlet; also Nicolas was of Little Hay, as I conjecture his son. He had issue Samuel, born in 1669; Mary and Elizabeth, born in 1672. In 1667, the widow of ——— Sylvester, of this place, paid to the affeſſment for the royal aid. The name continued till lately at Little Hay, but nothing particular is ſaid of this family.

Little Hay I look upon to be the boundary of a park lying in part of Sutton chace, South of Shenstone park. It is certain, that in this neighbourhood, and adjoining to Little Hay, was a thick wood of conſiderable extent in 1086, the year that Robert de Limeſi ſucceeded to the united ſees of Cheſter and Lichfield, called *Aſh Hay-wood*, at that time the eſtate of Henry de Newburgh, a Norman, firſt earl of Warwick after the Conqueſt, younger ſon of Roger de Beaumont, earl of Mellent, and baron de Pont Audemar in Normandy. The late Thomas Wilkes, of Willenhall in Staffordſhire, M. D. ſays, in his Collections, that in the 7th or 17th year of the reign of Edward I. William de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, granted a licence to Robert de Limeſi, biſhop of Lichfield and Coventry, to make a park here of his wood called Aſh Hay, which was then part of Sutton Colefield chace. But here are ſome miſtakes, there being no Robert de Limeſi biſhop of theſe dioceses in the reign of Edward I. however, we find, that William de Beauchamp, firſt earl of Warwick of this great family (ſon of William de Beauchamp, baron of Elmeley caſtle, in the county of Worceſter, generally called the Blind Baron), granted a licence, as the lord of the ſee, to Ralph de Limeſi to make a park of his wood called Aſh Hay.

Near

Near this place, or rather nearer to Weeford, it was that lord Lisle and Sir Hugh Willoughby fought a duel, in which Sir Hugh was forely wounded, but he seems to have been less pitied, as he had before slain in a duel — Purefoy, a person of note in the quarrel between the kings Henry VI. and Edward IV.

A family named *Aldrich* have long possessed lands in Little Hay; for in 1692 the widow Aldrich, of this village, paid to the poll-tax. About seven years since died Robert Aldrich, of Middleton in Warwickshire, owner of this estate, leaving male issue. John Aldrich, and Alice his wife, of Little Hay, in 1703. Mary their daughter died in 1704.

B O S S E S.

The *Bosses* (so named from *Boscus*, which means a wood, or a place of pasture and feeding) lie two miles South-West of Shentone church, consisting of more than 200 acres of land, bounded by Radley-more, the Peat-more, and Footerley, but stretching out two ways towards the fields leading to Nether Stonall and Little Aston. Upon these Bosses are three mansions, one of which, now in the tenure of Joseph Swift, with lands appertaining to it, is the property of the reverend — Averis, vicar of Rugeley, in right of his church, for which it was purchased for a sum of money added to that augmentation-money called queen Anne's bounty. This house is in the old manner of building, half timber, erected probably by Thomas Foley, esq. who resided here in the time of Charles II. in order to attend his works at Aston forge, to which it adjoins. This gentleman seems to have

have been the person, who, in 1645, was taken into custody by order of the committee then sitting at Stafford, and released upon the engagement of —— Simcox, a parliamentarian, that Foley should pay 150*l.* due from him to Giffard. The same Mr. Foley then being indebted 400*l.* on bond to —— Gough, of Wolverhampton, a delinquent, was discharged from that obligation by the committee, upon his giving security (January 1.) to pay 200*l.* at Midsummer next ensuing to the committee, of which number I find William Foley, esq. but know not whether he was related to Thomas Foley of Aston Forge. The next possessor of this estate was —— King; now, as we observed, it belongs to Rugely church.

The most considerable mansion at the Boffes is that in the tenure of William Hardwick, under William Tenant, esq. formerly the estate of this William Hardwick's father (of the same name), by purchase from the family of Fryth. The family of these Hardwicks were long settled at the More-house in Pattingham. Their ancestor Martin Hardwick, of the Mores, gentleman, was in the civil war in the reign of Charles I. plundered more than once for his adherence to the Royalists, and particularly by captain William Gough's men from Wolverhampton garrison; the said Martin Hardwick was also obliged to attend the committee at Stafford as a delinquent, and to advance 5*l.* upon the propositions to raise four hundred thousand pounds in the county of Stafford. William Hardwick, of the Boffes, in 1692 paid 4*s.* poll-tax for himself, his wife, and two children; and, in 1721, was one of the persons that were active to recover Granada Brown's legacy to this parish.

The lord of the manor owns the greatest part of these lands; the remainder is in the hands of John Dolphyn, Stephen Symphon

son of Lichfield (formerly Joseph Vere's and Thomas Dickinson's), Edward Milner, who possesses the other mansion, upon the other land called the Boffes, and others.

Near, are lands in this parish named the *White Quail*, formerly ——— Harrison's and Eleanor Wigan's; late reverend Edward Shaw's, of Wolverhampton, who hath conveyed them (in 1769) to Joseph Wood, of Walsal, with other estates.

L I T T L E A S T O N.

The last hamlet we speak of in the Shenstone division is *Aston Parva*, so named to distinguish it from Aston or East Town Magna, near Birmingham. This village is situate three miles and a half South-West from Shenstone, upon ground rising gradually all the way from the latter place, in which district it is reputed, and at such a distance from it, on account of the brook that rises upon the chace beyond Aston, passing through the whole parish, and thereby separating it into two parts; Shenstone side of the Bourne, and Stonall side of the same river.

The owner of the chief manor in Aston claims a right as lord of this manor, exclusive of Shenstone, and extending itself considerably

siderably upon Sutton Colefield chace, for which there seems to be some reason, seeing Thomas Mereton, of Aston, esq. and William Fryth, of Shenstone, esq. joined as lords of the manor in enfranchising lands in the hamlet of Fotherley, for the advantage of John Adams, in the 3d year of the reign of king Charles I; also in 1664 (16 Charles II.), Thomas Scott, of Aston, is named with Edward Fryth, and two other persons, as granting privileges to Edward Thornton, in Fotherley aforesaid, yet it is equally certain, that the inhabitants of Little Aston acknowledge the lord of Shenstone manor, passing suit, and doing service at the court-leet and court-baron of William Tenant, esq. Andrew Hacket, esq. who claims the rights of a manor in Aston, and the lands in the hamlet, with more in Colefield, and a portion acquired by purchase from the manor of Aldrich, informed me, that courts were formerly held at Aston, to which the inhabitants come to do suit and service; and further affirmed, that several rolls of this kind were in the hands of —— Sadler, gent. his agent, who also assured me of the same. The abovesaid portion of land taken out of Aldrich manor, and annexed to Aston Parva, was sold by Edward Mountford, esq. lord of it, to Sir Robert Ducie, of Aston-hall.

Rugeway, or Ridgway, upon the Colefield, or Colmesfield, was in early times the boundary between Sutton and Shenstone parishes towards Aston hamlet, as appears from a prosecution commenced in the 17th year of the reign of Edward I. by Elias le Collier, for the recovery of three hundred pounds, of which he was robbed in the said road or rugeway, which, it is expressed, divided the counties of Warwick and Stafford, leaving Sutton, Aston juxta, and Birmingham, on the one side, and Barre, Alrewick, with part of Shenstone, upon the Staffordshire side. Elias le Collier had judgement to recover his money,

ney, and writs were directed to the sheriffs of both shires to levy the said sum.

At the distance of half a mile from the ancient mansion, and half a mile from the present hall, stood a chapel dedicated to St. Peter, subject to Shenstone as a chapel of ease; and, no doubt, as persons of great fortune and character long resided here, and seeing the tythes were, as far as we can understand, always separated from Shenstone, was, in a great measure, independent of the parish church. Lately remained some ruins of a building on a ground rising gradually from the old hall near the present grove, which might be either of the chapel, or the minister's house, with a covered well, and a barn, yet standing. The land upon which the church stood is to this day called the Chapel-piece, and belongs to Andrew Hacket, of Sutton Colefield, esq. in right of his wife, daughter of Richard Scott, esq. Richard de Aston, whom I look upon to have been lord of this place in the 35th year of the reign of Edward III. was witness to a deed of Richard Fitzwilliam; Hanway de Handsacre passing lands in Aldershall, near Lichfield, to Eleonora de Handsacre.

The Fowkes, persons of note, were possessed of this seat and manor in 1583. On a visitation of the heralds at arms, Thomas Fowke*, esq. of Aston Parva, was admitted to bear a coat, as a gentleman by descent. Simon Degge, the antiquary, also mentions this family to have been owners of Little Aston. They possessed Gunston, Handsacre, Brewood, Batchacre, lands in Gnosall, and other places in Staffordshire; also in Drymerston in Gloucestershire, and Middlesex: in all likelihood they had their name from Fowke Grange in Staffordshire.

William Fowke, of Brewood, had issue two sons, Roger and John. Roger, by his wife, daughter and heir of John Wy-

* And John Fowkes of Gunstone.

baston, had William, who married Jane, daughter of John Streethy, of Streetway near Lichfield, esq., and had issue Edward, a priest; and Roger, who took to wife Margery, daughter to John Whorwood, of Compton, esq. By her he had a son William, who married Jane, daughter of James Levison, of Wolverhampton, esq. and was father of Roger, who, by Joan, daughter and coheir of Roger Fowke, of Gunston, had issue Thomas (as I suppose, of Little Aston), and four daughters; Mary, wife of Henry James, of Baddesley; 2. Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Congreve, whom she survived, and afterwards married Thomas Green, esq. 3. Mary*, wife of John Aldeyn, of London, esq. (who died in 1665; she died in 1679-80) by whom she had John, and three daughters; Barbara, Catharine, and Elizabeth; 4. Joyce, wife of Edward Dickinso, of Bradley.

John, son of the first William, of Brewood, by Agnes, daughter and heir of John Newman de Gunstone (who bore Sable, a fess wavy, between 6 dolphins, Argent), had issue William, who married Elizabeth, daughter to Roger Swynnerton, esq. and had issue Humphry and Thomas, who, by Margery daughter to Robert Lane, of Hyde, had a son Robert; he married Mary, daughter to lord Zouch of Harringworth, by whom he had a son Arthur. Also William had a third son, Roger Fowke, who, by Cassandra, daughter to William Humfreston, had issue John; who, by Anne his wife, daughter to John Bradshaw, of Windley, had four sons; 1. Roger, who, by Margaret, daughter to Richard Morton, of Houghton, had issue five daughters; 1. Joan, wife of Roger Fowke, of Brewood, esq. 2 Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Congreve, of Sewerden; 3. Joyce; 4. Catharine; 5. Jane;

* See Register, and monuments in Stow church, near Lichfield.

2. Francis, who married Elizabeth, daughter to —— Comines, and to his second wife Jane, daughter to John Ransford, of Tew, relict of William Cusper; 3. William, who married ——, daughter and heir of —— Dyfon, esq. 4. Thomas, who married twice; first, to Elizabeth, daughter to John Watts; secondly, to ——, daughter to —— Cooper, of Enborn, he had issue Thomas, father of Richard; Anne (who married, and had issue Sufanna); and Elizabeth. Robert Fowke, of Sinesburgh in Derbyshire, married Mary, daughter of Richard Zouch of Staffordale, in Somersetshire, by whom he had issue Charles, who died at Newhaven in 1563; Arthur, William, George, Henry, Anne, and Elizabeth.

We add farther, that John Fowke, in 1583, of Gunstone, was allowed to be a gentleman, and to bear arms. Thomas Fowke, esq. of Brewood, and Ferrers, his son, were possessed of lands in Little Wyrley, in the 11th year of the reign of Charles I. Roger Fowke, gent. had a son John, born 1593-4; and Roger, another son, born in 1598.

Gerard Fowke was a captain in the royal army in the Civil War under Charles I. and afterwards was, with another gentleman of the same name, and a sufferer in the same cause, whose seat was at Batchacre Grange, obliged to compound for his estate with the usurpers. In 1643-4, the wife of the said captain Gerard Fowke suffered in the loss of her cattle, which were seized by captain H. Stone; to redeem them she was ordered to pay down 30l. January 6, and to advance 20l. more upon the 27th of that month, for a protection; not being able in those troublesome times to raise that sum, 10l. was taken; yet was she again plundered; for February 8 the committee at Stafford, on complaint being made, ordered captain Jackson and lieutenant Hall to restore a horse of her's seized at Gnowfall. On the

17th of September in the same year, four more cattle were taken from her, but restored. In December 1644, the horses of — Fowke were seized, and returned upon the payment of 10l. to the committee; that year Thomas Fowke, esq. of Brewood, was compelled (for the use of the parliamentarians) to find two horses worth 14l. to pay 15l. in money, and to promise 28l. more within a month. Dorothy, widow of John Fowke, of Gunston, received some allowance from the committee about the same time, upon a petition, that her son Francis, serjeant-major in colonel Martin's regiment, fell in the parliament's service, and had left nine small children.

John Fowke, in 1643, was one of the sheriffs for the city of London, and in 1661 member of parliament for the same.

In later times we find William Fowke, of Cannock, gent. (George II.) who had issue Joseph, born in 1748; George, in 1752; Anne, who died in 1746; Ellen, born in 1754; and Anne, in 1764; but the principal line was continued in — Fowke, esq. of Wyrley Parva, lord of the manor of Brewood, who had issue — Fowke, M. D. (well known in the learned world as a person of merit; he practised some time as a physician, but when his estates fell to him he gave all his prescriptions gratis; at length he was chosen president of the college of physicians in London); and three daughters, of which the eldest was wife of — Hufsey, of London, who had by her Phineas*, that married — daughter of William Jeffon, of Lichfield, gent. and sister of William Jeffon, counsellor in the law; which Phineas became, in right of his mother, one of the coheirs to the learned — Fowke, M. D. He had issue Phineas Hufsey of Little Wyrley, esq. and a daughter Isabella, both

* Fowke.

unmarried ; also three other sons, Fowke, surgeon and apothecary ; Joseph ; and Richard, a linen-draper in Wolverhampton, who, by ——, daughter of —— Becket, hath one son and one daughter. The second sister of the physician was married to John Holland, gent. father, by her, of John Holland, of Shrewsbury, M. D. The youngest sister was wife of Robert Huntbach, of Wolverhampton, gent. whose daughter, wife of Helliere, esq. had issue an only son, Sir Samuel Helliier, of Woodhouse, near Womburn in Staffordshire, knight, late high-sheriff for the county of Worcester, yet unmarried. The present Phineas Hufsey, esq. is lord of a third part of Norton, Little Worley, in Norton, Brown Hills, lands in Landy-wood, near Cannock ; Brewood hall, and its appurtenances, he sold in 1766, to Plymley, gent. The family, for two or three hundred years, had Ogley Hay, one-third of which came to Fowke Hufsey, and either is at present in Phineas Hufsey, esq. or in Richard Gildart, esq. lord of the manor of Norton under Cannock, by purchase.

We also add, that John Holland * lived at Brewood hall, was a man of abilities, and had another son Fowke, linen draper in Salop.

Arms of Fowke de Brewood ; Vert, a fleur de liz, Argent ; of Gunstone, the same, with a crescent for difference.

The next possessors of Little Aston were the Ducies, by purchase from the Fowkes, whose family I shall take some pains to speak of, because Simon Degge, who wrote in the reign of Charles II. in his spleen says, that alderman Ducy's son would take it ill not to be wrote *esquire*.

* He was also justice of the peace.

The family came out of Normandy, and had its estates in the county of Stafford from the time of king Edward II. when ——— Ducy, their ancestor, raised a regiment for queen Isabel against that king, out of the Normans his countrymen, and was, most probably, after the deposing that unfortunate prince, rewarded with lands in England.

..... Ducy, in the reign of Henry VII. had issue James, who married Alice, daughter of Sir Richard Pype, of Belton in the county of Derby, knight (son of Richard Pype, of Wolverhampton, esq. and father of Sir Richard Pype, sheriff of London in 1572, and lord mayor in 1578.); his second son, Henry, married Mary, daughter and heir of Robert Hardy, esq. and had issue Robert, a considerable person in 1618, being then a citizen of London, and alderman of Baffishaw ward. At his own expence he glazed one of the windows of St. Lawrence Jury church, in which parish he lived (others of the inhabitants finishing the rest), was of the merchant-tailors company, one of the sheriffs for the city in 1620, knighted in 1628-9, lord mayor in the year 1630-1, created a baronet in the 5th year of the reign of Charles I. by letters patent, dated November 28. This Sir Robert was a considerable benefactor to St. James's church, and to St. Trinity in Aldgate, London, being present at the dedication of the latter, and was the same person to whom, as an encourager of learning and merit, was dedicated by an anonymous author, under the initial letters A. M. * the edition of Stowe's Annals in folio, published in 1633. Being immensely rich, king Charles I. made choice of him for his banker, and at the beginning of the Civil War was indebted to him eighty thousand pounds, all which he lost; at his decease, however, he left 40,000*l.* and upwards, to his children. By his wife, Eliza-

* Anthony Munday.

beth, daughter of Richard Pyott, alderman of London, he had issue four sons, William, Hugh, Richard, and Robert.

Sir Robert, baronet, bore, Argent, a fess vair Argent and Azure, between 3 cinquefoils pierced, 2 and 1, in a chief, a right hand coupéd at the wrist.

Of Hugh I find no more, than that he was created in the month of April 1661, one of the knights of the Holy Trinity, usually called knights of the Bath.

Sir William succeeded his father in the title of baronet, and in 1661 was created knight of the Bath the same day with Sir Hugh his brother. He lived some time at Little Aston, and was succeeded in the title of baronet by his brother Sir Richard, who was also resident at Aston hall, for, in 1667, Richard Ducey, of Aston, twice paid towards the assessment for the royal aid. August 29, 1679, we find the same person, or one of the name, buried at Shenstone*.

Of Robert, the youngest, we learn †, that Sir Robert Ducey his father, alderman of London, purchased Little Aston of — Fowke, and gave it to Robert Ducey, his youngest son; this must have happened in king Charles the First's reign, seeing, in December 1643, this Robert Ducey, esq. of Aston, was taken into custody by order of the committee at Stafford ‡, as a person no way devoted to serve the parliament's designs, and not released till he had given his promise, and a note under his hand, either to return to Stafford as a prisoner within one month, or to send the committee 100l.; the note I have seen, and it bears date January 6, 1643-4. This gentleman married Mary, daughter of Sir Gabriel Lowe, of Newark, in the county of Gloucester, knight, by whom, as I conjecture, he had Robert and

* See Register.

† See Degge.

‡ Committee notes; pen. Dom. Burks de Aldershaw.

Richard, who died, as above said, in 1679; otherwise it will be difficult to reconcile the parish register with Collins's Peerage, who calls Sir William and Sir Richard Ducey, baronets, uncles to Sir Robert Ducey's daughter and heir; also a daughter named Elizabeth. We are pretty certain his wife survived him, and re-married * to Thomas Jolliffe, of Coston in the county of Worcester, esq. and was buried at Shentone in 1663; a lady of great goodness, and fine accomplishments.

Robert Ducey, of Aston, esq. was buried at Shentone, May 14, 1664, which person I look upon to have been son of Robert aforesaid, and grandson of Sir Robert, first baronet of this line.

Another Robert lived at Aston hall in 1673.

We observe in addition to the above account, that Sir Robert Ducey, baronet, among other estates, purchased Wickware, a large and corporate town in Gloucestershire, of the Delawars, which went to Sir William Ducey, his grandson, created lord viscount Downe, in the kingdom of Ireland, who leaving no issue, his sister became his heir, and married to Mr. Moreton.

The Moretons have long possessed the lordship of Engleton, in the county of Stafford. In 1583, upon the visitation of the heralds at arms, Adam Moreton, of Wilbrighton, and Edward, of Engleton, were allowed to be gentlemen by descent, and to bear a coat.

In the 3d, 4th †, and 14th, years of the reign of Charles I. Thomas Moreton, of Engleton, esq. as lord of Shentone, jointly with William Fryth, of Murival in the county of Warwick, passed or enfranchised lands in this parish to several persons, particularly in Nether Stonall and Fotherley, in which last deed he is named son of Edward Moreton, of Engleton, also

* This does not appear in the Jolliffe pedigree in Dr. Nash's Worcestershire, I. p. 251.

† Chart. penes meipsum.

in Little Hay. In May 1644, —— Moreton, of Engleton, esq. was imprisoned by the committee at Stafford, and orders given him to pay 100l. and if not done in a week, that he should be distrained. In the reign of king Charles II. colonel Edward Moreton resided at Little Aston.

Robert Ducie, the fourth son of Sir Robert *, had only Elizabeth, his daughter and heir; heir also to Sir Richard and Sir William Ducie, baronets, her uncles. She was married to Edward Moreton, of Moreton and Engleton, in the county of Stafford. Matthew Ducie Moreton, their son, was on June 13, 1720, created by king George I. baron Ducie, of Moreton, in the county of Stafford. He died in 1736 †, and was succeeded in the title and estate by Matthew, his son; but his eldest sister, Elizabeth, having, February 5, 1729, married to Francis Reynolds, esq. son to Thomas Reynolds, formerly a South Sea director, the reversion of the honour is settled upon her issue by the said Francis Reynolds.

Arms of lord Ducie Moreton, Argent, a chevron, Gules, between three square buckles Sable: Crest, out of a wreath a demi moorcock displayed, proper, comb and wattles, Gules: Supporters, two Unicorns, Argent, armed, maimed, tufted, and hooped, Or, gorged with a ducal coronet, party per pale, Or and Gules. Motto, *Perseverando*.

In 1663 resided at Little Aston Thomas Jolliff (whence his wife was brought to be interred), but whether as his home, or on a visit, is not very certain.

We add, though a little out of its place, that Richard Ducie, esq. of Frocester in Gloucestershire, was an active royalist in the Civil War, in the time of Charles I. and when his party was

* Collins's Peerage.

† May 2, 1735. Collins.

crushed,

crushed, besides his other losses and sufferings, was obliged to pay the usurpers, as a composition for his estate and to live unmolested, the sum of 846 l.

To the Antiquary I offer an earlier pedigree of the Moretons. Geoffrey Moreton de Moreton, in the 9th year of the reign of king Edward II. (so called from a low marshy ground) besides other estates, had a moiety of Church-over manor, in the county of Warwick. Thomas de Moreton (in the reign of Henry VIII.) had Atherston lordship upon Stour, in the same county.

—— Moreton had issue Andrew Moreton, of Moreton, in the county of Stafford, who marrying —— daughter of —— Knightley, of Knightley in this county (and of Wyrley, near Cannock, in the 9th year of the reign of Edward II.), a younger branch of that ancient family had issue 3 sons; James, Thomas, and John, a priest. James took to wife ——, daughter of —— Done, of Flaxyards and Utkington, in Cheshire, and had issue by her Thomas, of Moreton, esq. whose son and heir was Adam; both living in 1583. Adam died in the 12th year of the reign of James I. seized of the manor of Moreton, with 5 messuages, and 590 acres of land there; also 5 messuages, 3 cottages, and 1200 acres of land in Wiltrickon; one of his daughters was wife of James Fowler, of Penford, esq. In the reign of queen Elizabeth Robert Moreton, of Baltrey in Staffordshire, married ——, daughter of Sir John Markham, of Cotham, knight.

Thomas, second son of Andrew Moreton and —— Knightly, had the lordship of Engleton in Staffordshire, which came into the family by a marriage with the heiress of that ancient house of Engleton, or Ingleton. This Thomas, by Margery his wife, daughter to —— Shepherd, of Oakley, in the county of Stafford, esq. had issue two sons, Matthew and Richard; and

four daughters; 1. Elizabeth, daughter of Stapleton, of Lislewood, esq. 2. Joyce, wife of Thomas Rowley, of Hickerley, esq; 3. Alice, married to George Parsons, of Samburn in Warwickshire, esq; 4. Jane, wife of John Horne, of Stoke in Warwickshire, gent. Matthew Moreton, by Alice his wife, daughter of Thomas Dickers, of Morehall in Staffordshire, heir to her mother (Editha, daughter of Thomas Corbyn, esq. of Corbyn's-hall, a great royalist, by daughter of More, esq. of More-hall), had Edward, and five daughters; 1. Mary; 2. Constance; 3. Margaret; 4. Isabel, wife of John Egington, of Robinson in Staffordshire, esq; 5. Alice, wife of William Dickens, esq. Margaret was wife of Francis Whitwick, esq. This branch of the Moretons assumed Engleton's coat of arms. Matthew Moreton died possessed of Buckfande, a messuage in Engleton; another called Knightley's lands; two others called Gough's, one messuage in Horsebrooke, called Gough's lands; lands in Brewood and Water Eaton; three messuages in Acton; lands in Dunston, Bednall, and Penkrich, in the tenure of one Southern; in Clisby and Webb; with two parts in three of the herbage and pannage of Ogle Hay, in or near Shenstone.

After these families, Little Aston manor passed by purchase to Richard Scott, of Birmingham in Warwickshire, gent. He erected the present house in the modern style, of a neat brick, edged with polished stone, upon a swell, rising gently and gradually from the old mansion, which was in the manner of building in the reign of Charles I; half timber, in a low, moist, and unhealthy situation; a small part of it is yet standing (and is used as a stable), as it were to point out the false taste of those times. Elegant as this structure was, and fine as its situation, Mr. Scott fell into another error, customary in his days, of enclosing

cloſing all round him, and as it were hiding and fencing his manſion with high hedges of holly and other evergreens, which gave it a gloomy appearance; but, perhaps, the following deſcription given of it will convey the beſt idea to the reader. Aſton-hall, in the pariſh of Shenſtone, is a capital modern-built houſe, with offices convenient for a large family; to it belongs the manor of Little Aſton, and a conſiderable demefne of land, arable, paſture, and meadow; has four large pools of water, and ſeveral ſtews for fiſh. A noted trout-brook runs through the manor, which is in a fine ſporting country, adjoining to Sutton Chace, three miles from Sutton, fix from the city of Lichfield, five from Walfal, and ten from Birmingham. The houſe is handſome, neatly fronted and faſhed four ways, is four ſtories high, and was built by Richard Scott, eſq. This gentleman was a perſon of much merit and humanity, known in public life by his having ſerved the office of high-ſheriff of the county with reputation, and in private by an affable deportment to all about him, and his zeal to ſerve and oblige the pariſhioners with whom he reſided. He married Anne, one of the daughters of John Addyes, of Moor-hall in the pariſh of Sutton Colefield, eſq. and died, after being ſorely afflicted with the ſtone and gravel, aged 62, upon the 6th of June, 1734. His wife ſurvived him, and died of a cancer in her breaſt, November 25, 1754, aged 65. They left iſſue only one daughter, Mary, born in 1713, at Aſton, baptized November 20, and married February 24 next after the death of her father, to Andrew Hacket, eſq. of Moxhull in the county of Warwick, to whom ſhe carried Aſton hall and other eſtates.

Andrew Hacket's family were ſettled in Lincolnſhire, of which I now ſhall ſay what is come to my knowledge of their genealogy.

John

John Hacket, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, his ancestor, was a personage of high repute for his learning and public spirit, which brought upon him great sufferings in the time of the rebellion. He was born in the Strand, Westminster, and educated in the king's school there; thence being removed to Trinity college, Cambridge, he was chosen fellow, and became a noted tutor to the children of many great families. Going into holy orders, he was chaplain to Dr. Williams, bishop of Lincoln, and lord chancellor of England; afterwards chaplain to king James I. rector of Holborn, London, and of Cheam, in Surrey; in 1624, archdeacon of Bedford, also canon residentiary and prebendary of Mora in the church of St. Paul. In 1631, he collected several thousand pounds to repair Holborn church, then greatly decayed, which the parliament seized, and employed in the war against king Charles I. with that which was set apart for the repair of St. Paul's. He was of the committee to rectify the Liturgy, in hopes to dispel the storm falling upon the church, but this design was quashed by the bill for taking away Episcopacy. He even once put a stop to the bill; Holborn was taken from him; and at Cheam he was disturbed and imprisoned for using the Liturgy, yet he held it till the Restoration, when he was offered the bishoprick of Gloucester, but refused it. In 1661, he was raised to the united sees of Lichfield and Coventry. Upon the cathedral at Lichfield he spent in eight years 19,000*l.* of his own, and money procured for that end, with 1000*l.* given by the chapter on Christmas eve. In 1669 he consecrated that cathedral, and kept a feast for three days together, to shew his joy for accomplishing so noble a work, which is indeed the admiration of the present times. He also laid out 1000*l.* upon his prebendal house, the old palace being destroyed in the troubles. In his diocese he was exact, a constant

stant preacher, and used his utmost endeavours to oblige his clergy to do the same, and adorn their doctrine with religious lives. He was a great benefactor to Trinity college, and the public library, at Cambridge; also to St. John's college, and Clare hall. The good bishop, of whom I could not say less, died October 28, 1670, and was buried under a sumptuous monument, set up by his son in his own cathedral. In 1671, were published under his name two books called "Christian Consolations;" and a "Century of Religious Discourses," folio, London, in 1675; with his "Life," written by Thomas Plume.

Henry Hacket, of Grymley, Worcesterfhire, was a sufferer in the Civil War, and obliged to pay 300*l.* composition for his estate to the usurpers. Whether he was related to the bishop I have not learned.

The prelate had issue a son, Sir Andrew Hacket, knight, one of the masters in chancery, who married one of three daughters and coheirs of — Lisle, of Moxhull in the county of Warwick, esq. and by her had issue three sons, Lisle, Andrew, and John, a clergyman, vice principal of Trinity college, Cambridge, under the famous and learned Dr. Bentley, and when ordered to read the order of the bishop (visitor of that college) to expel him, refused to be concerned. Lisle Hacket, of Moxhull, esq. had an only daughter, Mary, married to Sir Justinian Isham, of Lambton in Northamptonshire, baronet, member of parliament for that county, who died March 5, 1737, without issue by his lady.

Andrew, brother to Lisle, was father to Andrew, late of Moxhull, now of Sutton Colefield, esq. by Mary his wife, now living, daughter of Richard Scott, of Little Aston in Shenstone, esq. and hath issue Andrew, John, and Richard, clerk, who hath a benefice in the county of Lincoln, and is yet unmarried.

Andrew

Andrew married —, daughter to John lord Leigh, of Stonely Abbey, Warwickshire, and sister to Sir Edward the present baron and baronet; she died in London of the small-pox in February, 1769, without issue. Andrew resides at the family seat at Moxhull, which his father gave up on his marriage about the year 1767. This Andrew Hacket, junior, was high-sheriff for the county of Warwick.

John, second son of Andrew Hacket, esq. of Sutton Colefield, became in 1766 heir to his uncle, John Addyes, of Moore-hall, Warwickshire, esq. and then took the name of Addyes. This John Addyes Hacket, of Moore-hall, was married to Jane, daughter to — Scott, of Barr in the parish of Aldrich, esq. (by his wife daughter of Whitby, of Heywood, esq. now of Langley-hall, near Sutton, lately of Colwich, in the county of Stafford) August 30, 1769.

After the Scotts' family left Aston-hall it was in the tenure of Richard Banner, of London; after of Perry Barre, esq. In 1741 he was named a commissioner in the act of parliament, by the appellation of Richard Banner, of Aston-hall, esq. He was a person of good breeding, and great humanity, especially towards the poor, shewn, besides his continual benevolence in giving a whole beef and three guineas at Christmas, yearly, to the distressed of his own parish. His study was fitted with a collection of the most choice and valuable books, which were when he left this place, sold by — Purcel, of Worcester, his nephew, for several hundred pounds to — Anson, of Shuckborough, in the county of Stafford, esq. His wife was, sister to Griffith Davis, of Birmingham, an eminent physician, distinguished too for her charities, one instance of which we remark, which was the keeping a shop of physical drugs, in the management of which she was directed by Sa-

muel Swynfen, of Swynfen, esq. M. D. afterwards of Birmingham, well known, and yet remembered for his skill in his profession, and his care in his prescriptions; this good lady died of a cancer in her breast. Her niece, Mary Griffith, only daughter and heir to Griffith Davis *, M. D. with a fortune of 3000*l.* was, upon May 26, 1736, married in Shenstone church to Sir Thomas Cave, of Starford, in Northamptonshire, baronet; her residence being then at Aston, as ward to her uncle Richard Banner, esq.

This mansion was next in the holding of John Petit, esq. as I am informed, from 1743 to 1762, or thereabouts, a gentleman of great abilities and knowledge of the polite world; to these were added what was preferable, compassion to the lowest of his fellow-creatures, and great goodness. With him resided a brother, who had served in the army as a captain, equally worthy. In one word, the charity of the whole family seemed (their station considered) to have no limits. The gentlemen administered physic, and prescribed to their neighbours of a middle rank, whose circumstances did not admit of much expence, as well as to the poor, not only of this parish, but of Aldrich, Barr, Sutton, Hill, and the hamlets adjoining, and with this they frequently administered money, and the necessaries of life. The lady of John Petit, esq. with her sister and daughter, gave freely to such poor families, and to such objects of humanity, as came within their sphere, which also they searched out themselves, ordered to have recommended to their notice, employing themselves at other times, like Dorcas among the primitive Christians, with making linen for the poor, especially women with child, or in the bed of sickness. In the year 1762, after the death of Mr. Petit, his widow left Aston, and settled in Bloomsbury-square, London, to the very sensible loss and regret of all ranks in this

* Lord of the manor of Thedingworth in Leicestershire; where a monument is placed to his memory. He died in 1722, aged 54.

neighbourhood. The captain (Peter) died in 1768, and Mrs. Petit in 1767.

John Petit, esq. married Mary, daughter of Thomas Hayes, of Wolverhampton, esq. and had issue John Lewis, M. D. of London, where he practised with great success; and Mary Anne. John Lewis was educated at Queen's college, Cambridge, and took the degree of A. B. 1756, A. M. 1759, M. D. 1766, and in November, 1769, married to —— daughter of —— Serces, esq. of Hounslow. He died May 27, 1780, leaving three sons, John, Peter, and Lewis, all now living.

William Penn, gentleman, held this mansion upon the departure of John Petytt, esq. three or four years, at present of Aldrich; his wife was Anne, daughter of —— Symcox, of Aldrich, gent. but hath no issue.

In the year 1765, Humphry Minchin, esq. took a lease of the house, with the manor of Little Aston and all its rights, for 99 years; and, about the feast of St. Michael in the same year, came from the neighbourhood of Reading, in Berkshire, to reside at this seat. Finding the place capable of improvement, he soon made great alterations, cutting down the fences and hedges, which gave the house the appearance of a monastery, and laid out the many inclosures about it in the form of a park, for which the land was by its situation well adapted. The water in the center, and which passes through the park, is greatly increased and enlarged, so as to add to the beauty of the whole; the trees, which were planted irregularly, and intercepted the view from the house, are fallen, instead of which clumps are set, which vary the scene, and conceal a barren heath on Cannock wood, or, in a few years, will effectually do so. The gardens adjoining to it were for the most part rooted up, and new ones made about a quarter of a mile South from the mansion, which now appears to the best advantage, exceeding the opinion of

those who remember it shut up with ever-greens and lofty firs, being indeed a handsome modern-built house. Shenstone church to the North of it, and Aldrich to the West, are pleasing objects of view from it. The present possessor, for whom I express a particular respect, having lived a considerable time in his family, is a person of merit, of the greatest politeness and good-breeding, having been conversant in the manners of several courts in Europe, viz. England, France, Germany, and Italy; in each of these countries he hath not only travelled, but long resided, and received, in part, his education. This gentleman is the only person who makes use of the *paillasses* (beds of straw) under feather beds, as I am told is frequent in France, and which are of ancient use at Edburton manor in Bucks; the other beds in the family are mattresses. An elegant modern writer * hath a long note on such customs in his Remarks upon Virgil, which will justify my mentioning this circumstance.

The family of Minchin took their name from Minchin-Hampton, a market-town in the county of Gloucester, of which place they originally were. This is also called the monastery of Hampton, because it belonged to the house of nuns at Caen in Normandy, whence, about the time of queen Elizabeth or king James I. John, William, and a third brother Minchin, went into the kingdom of Ireland, and, there purchasing lands, settled their several families. Paul, of Bogh, in the county of Carlow, was grandson, or great grandson, of one of the aforementioned persons; and, marrying Henrietta, daughter of Bunbury, esq. of in Ireland, originally of England, and of the same family with Sir Charles Bunbury, baronet, had issue Humphry, and two daughters, now living, Rebecca, wife of Daniel Toler, esq. of Ireland; and Elizabeth, unmarried: Paul, of Bogh, esq. died in 1764.

* Spence.

Humphry Minchin, of Aston hall, esq. married Clarinda, one of the two daughters and coheirs of George Cuppidge, esq. a noted banker of the city of Dublin: Anne, the other daughter and coheir, yet living, is the reliēt of John Dawson, esq. son of Arthur, a baron of the exchequer in Ireland, who died in 1767, without issue. By Mr. Minchin his lady hath issue four sons and five daughters; Paul, Spencer, George, and Henry; Henrietta, Anne, Clarinda, Louisa, and Georgiana. Maria, aged thirteen, died at Aston, and was buried in Shenstone church, March 31, 1767.

Humphry Minchin, esq. was of Ganakil-castle, in the county of Tipperary in Ireland, serjeant at arms in Ireland, in the commission of the peace, and a colonel of militia there, as his father was.

We find, that Richardson of PeirceButler, of Barrow Mount, in Ireland, captain of horse, slain in 1650 in that kingdom, eldest son of Edward * lord viscount Galmoy, in the reign of Charles I. by Anne his wife, daughter to Edward Woolley, D.D. bishop of Clonfert, had issue a daughter, wife of —— Minchin, of Tipperary.

In 1721, Theobald Burke, of Kill and Moneycrower, in Ireland, of the same family as Sir John Bourke (de Burgo), viscount Mayo, and baronet, married Catharine, daughter of ——— Minchin, esq. by whom he had issue one son, Arthur Annesley, who died at Theobald; the father died in 1751, leaving four daughters.

John Minchin, of Annagh in Tipperary, married Penelope, daughter of Joseph Cuff, esq. of Castle-inch in Kilkenny, and sister to John, created baron Desart †, in Kilkenny, by whom

* See Lodge's Peerage of Ireland.

† By king George II. in 1733.

he had issue four sons and three daughters ; Charles, Humphry, John, and Boyle ; Penelope married to Thomas Minchin, esq. her cousin-german ; Jane to Henry Stotesbury, of Freshford, esq. who died in 1741 ; and Mary to Michael Lewis, of Kilkenny, esq.

Near Aston hall stands a mansion, known for its having been in possession of a good family, named Sedgwick, and before them of the Offleys, as say some records ; yet it seems to me, that the Sedgwicks were prior to the Offleys in this place, confirmed by some deeds, which take no notice of the latter till the reign of king Charles II. nor indeed does the register. I am ready, therefore, to conclude, that they lived here at the same time, and in separate habitations.

In 1558 (5 Mary), James Sedgewick, by his wife, had children living, William ; Mary, who died in 1606 ; and Elizabeth. William, of Little Aston, died in March, 1607-8, having issue by Mary his wife (who, surviving, died in 1609-10.) as I think, Wenlock, Roger, and Rowland. Wenlock had issue William, born in 1656-7, died in 1660. Dorothy, his mother, then a widow, died in 1673 ; Wenlock died in 1658. Michael, by Anne his wife, had issue Henry, born in 1672. James Sedgwick married Mary Bowman in 1674, and had children, Raphael and Elizabeth. Michael, by Sarah his wife, had issue Michael, born in 1682, died in 1686 ; and Sarah in 1702.

I find a Wenlock Sedgwick, brother to James ; and Henry, who lived at Pelsal, and married twice, but died without issue. Wenlock settled at Sutton Colefield, or Wild Green, near it, and left one son*, if no more. James as abovesaid lived at Aston, but gave the estate up to his son Raphael upon his marriage with

* Henry, living in 1677-8.

——, daughter of —— Gough, of Old Fallings, near Wolverhampton, esq. and resided at Sutton; as did also afterwards Henry his brother, to whom Raphael, of Little Aston, gent. became heir. Raphael resided at Aston in 1677, for that year he is named as a witness to the settlement of a dower by James Adams, of Fotherley, upon Mary (Sedgwick) his wife, and died in 1689-90.

James Sedgwick, of Aston, gent. by Mary his wife (who died in 1712) had issue Wenlock (who died in 1715, at Lichfield), Henry, and James of Wolverhampton, who deceased in 1735; Margaret, married in 1713 to Joshua Symonds, of Birmingham. Henry, by Elizabeth * his wife, had issue John, born at Aston in 1734; Henry, born in 1738; Anne, Mary, Elizabeth, and Sarah.

We add, that in the 19th year of the reign of James I. John Sedgwick had lands in Stonall; that Henry, in 1684, witnessed a deed of John Turner, gent. of Sutton, and Joan his wife, passing lands in Stonall to John Stofes of Oldfallings, but are not certain that these were of the Aston line.

In 1667, the widow Sedgwick, and Henry her son, paid to the assessment for aiding the king. In 1692, James paid 5s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and three children, all of Little Aston.

In 1675, Michael Sedgwick married Elizabeth Sylvester, who died with her infant son Michael, in child-bed, in 1677.

Thomas (whom I suppose to be son and heir to James of Wolverhampton) was of Wolverhampton, and Overpenne, doctor of physick: he married Anne, daughter and heiress of Thomas Bardney, esq. of Netherpenne, and had issue by her a son Thomas, who died aged 7. As she had no other child by him, the estates at Penne

* Elizabeth Hilton, of Middleton.

and elfewhere, which he enjoyed ſome years after her deceaſe, paſſed to Thomas Bradney, eſq. of Penne, ſon of Thomas Bradney, of Wolverhampton, and in the commiſſion of the peace, with the tithes of Upper and Lower Penne; in failure of male iſſue, lands of 500l. *per annum*, and improvable, deſcend to William Hilliar, of Wolverhampton, and James Billingsley, fiſter's ſons of Thomas Sedgwick, M. D. and his heirs, by virtue of a ſettlement made by Anne Bradney aforeſaid, wife of this Thomas. Thomas Bradney hath iſſue yet three daughters.

William Hilliar conveyed the Aſton eſtate to John Butler, of Wedneſbury in Staffordſhire, gentleman.

Butler (an appellation derived from *Pincerna*, the name of an office) had iſſue James, of Alreways, near the city of Lichfield, who was father * to John and Richard, who was in the iron trade with — Turton, of the Oak in Weſt Bromwich, and afterwards lived at Hall-end in that Pariſh. He married Mary, daughter to Blackham, gentleman, and fiſter to Sir Richard, created a baronet in 1696, 7 William III. and to Charles Blackham, late of Birmingham, eſq. John, the eldeſt, ſettled in Maryland, and had no iſſue. Richard and Mary Blackham had iſſue Charles, or Richard, who went to his uncle in Maryland, and had iſſue there; John, and Thomas, of Wolverhampton, deceaſed, and left iſſue; alſo two daughters; Elizabeth, wife of — Marſh, of Weſt Bromwich, by whom, at her death, ſhe left two ſons and two daughters, yet living; and Sarah married to Richard Mann, of London, living in 1769.

John (died in 1768) married Anne, ſole daughter and heiress of — Barnet (who died in 1755), and had iſſue by her Richard,

* By daughter of Gueſt, of Worceſterſhire, clerk.

who

who died young; John; Elizabeth married (November 30, 1754) to Harry Sanders, clerk; they had issue one son, John Butler, aged 14 (1769); she died October 20, 1760; Anne, wife of George Coxe Stubbs, of Huntingdon, near Cannock, gent. who died in 1768, leaving issue Eleanor, who died an infant, and Martha, wife of Jonathan Kenrick, of Wednesbury, gent. by whom she hath children.

John Butler, son of John, and Anne Barnet, married in 1757 Mary, relict of ——— Chandler, of London, gent. and daughter of ——— Kenrick, by whom he had issue John, who died young, of the small pox; and a daughter, who died an infant.

The first of the Offleys were Thomas, of Gorfeot, in the parish of Walsall, and Richard, of Brynton, in Staffordshire, who, in 1661, and 1662, purchased lands in Nether Stonall and Little Aston; also in 1663, at Lynden, at which time Thomas lived in the parish. By Joan his wife he had issue Thomas, John *, of London; also Joan, wife of John Turner, gent. of Sutton Colefield.

In 1684, Thomas Offley's daughter, Joan Turner, owned lands in Stonall, given her by her father, for which Richard, of Brynton, was trustee. In 1686, Joan, her mother, was a widow. In 1687, Richard Offley had lands in Stonall, and the Heathfield in that berwick, with Offley Flatt; that year he possessed in that hamlet lands which were originally part of the Moss-house manor, for which he paid 3s. 8d. rent, as chief, to the king's receiver.

The Bradshaws, of Aston, had lands here; but, as I find no mention of them in the Register, suppose they did not reside here; the estates of the Offleys and Bradshaws being in the

* Born at Shenstone in 1665.

heirs of Thomas Sedgwick, M.D. were conveyed to the late John Butler, gent. with the rectorial tythes of this hamlet of Little Aston, and from him descended to John Butler, his only surviving son.

A meadow, named to this day Bradshaw's meadow, was afterwards the property of Robert Sylvester, of Wood-end, gent. and passed with his estates.

At a little distance from Butler's farm stands a neat mansion, formerly belonging to a gentleman's family named *Darby*.

In 1667, John Darby resided here, and paid to the assessment for the royal aid; and the same year to the additional assessment with ——— Baglies.

In 1692, we find here John Darby (perhaps his son), who died in 1704, and Elizabeth, his widow, in 1707, when the estate came to ——— Collyns, gent. of Aston. William Collyns was of Aston in 1583, and had issue Robert; Elizabeth, wife of Richard Astley, gent. 1599; Joan, who died in 1600; Alice, married to Thomas Bromley, gent. in 1601. Robert, by Anne his wife, had issue Sampson, Robert, and John. Elizabeth, wife of Sampson, died in 1658, leaving a son Sampson, who married (1670) Susannah, daughter of ——— Cooke, of Aston, by whom he had issue Joseph, and John*. John, third son of Robert, died in 1684; the said Robert had also two daughters, Anne; and Margery, wife of Richard Maddox, of Armitage, gent. Robert, second son of Robert, in 1667, paid to the royal aid, and died in 1671, leaving issue Robert and Anne. ——— Collins, of Aston, gent. died in 1716; by Anne, daughter of ——— Walker, gent. (by his wife ———, daughter of John Dolphyn, esq. of Shenstone Moss,) he had issue William, born

* Also Anne, wife of Wakeman, of London; in 1665, a widow.

in 1714; John, in 1715; also Anne, who died in 1713; and Ellen, married to —— Tyrer, of Cannock, by whom she left one daughter. William married twice; first, to ——, by whom he had William (died 1745-6), and Honour, a daughter, wife of —— Giles; secondly, he married Mary, daughter of Roger Smith, esq. of Frolefworth, in Leicestershire, and sister to Edward Smith*, esq. LL. D. of Edmondthorpe, in that county; by whom he had issue, now living, two sons, John, and William; also Catharine.

William Collins, gent. died in March, 1769, and his widow hath removed to Tettenhall, near Wolverhampton.

A family of note lived here, named *Walker*.

Richard Walker, gent. paid 5s. poll-tax in 1692; and died in 1702-3. By Anne his wife he had issue a son William.

Charles, second son of Charles Floyer, deceased, brother to Ralph of Hintz, esq. was † tenant at the mansion late William Collins's, gent. now the estate of the lord of the manor, by purchase from the said William Collins in 1766, with his other lands in Little Aston in possession of the late Thomas Hammond, deceased, and William Mills.

About a century since, the family of *Cook* had a mansion in this village, with lands adjoining (partly now in John Butler, partly in late William Collins, now William Tenant's, esq.), called the Henns Haffans, Oakhurst, and Oxhouse; and a tan-house, with field land. In 1667, the widow of John Cooke, gent. and John Cooke, paid to the royal aid; in 1692, the widow Cooke paid to the poll-tax. —— Cooke, of Aston, had issue John, who, in 1659, married Margery, daughter of Matthew Jelliffe,

* Member of Parliament for Leicestershire; he died in 1762.

† At Michaelmas, 1769.

of Hintz, gent. and had issue John, Rowland (who died in 1610), Elizabeth, Margery (died in 1667-8), and Anne. Farther we cannot trace this branch with certainty. Thomas, son of Anne Cooke, widow, died in 1667. Several of the name had lands in Shenstone village, the Ashcrofts, and other hamlets in the parish, and might be of the same lineage, as I am assured they were from one general ancestor in Shenstone; we find them the second named (1759) in the register, and to this day enjoying good estates.

John Cooke, gent. possessed the large old mansion, half timbered, in the mode of building in his time, whence I conclude, he erected this near Aston Green, or at least the purchaser from the Cookes, Mr. Goldsmith. Of this name we find one very busy parliamentarian, much employed by the committee at Stafford during the troubles in 1644-5; and suppose he fished so artfully in these disturbed waters as to acquire a sum sufficient for himself and son to purchase this estate, with others in the neighbourhood. John Goldsmith, gent. left issue two daughters; Catharine married (1721) to William Dudley, of Harborn, whose grandson enjoys the Aston lands; and —, wife of Thomas Coxe, of Colehill in Warwickshire, attorney at law.

Upon Aston Green stands a good old house, formerly the property of William Nabbes, esq. afterwards of Thomas Foley, esq. by purchase; since of the Coopers; and, by inheritance, of Thomas Cooper Smallwood, late of Birmingham.

William Nabbs, of Stafford, esq. in the reign of James I. purchased of the Trenthams, lords of Rochester in Staffordshire, 500*l. per annum*, lands, if not that feigniory or manor of Rochester, with the tenements that were in lease; but from whom he purchased the Aston estate I know not.

The *Coopers*, for some generations, have been persons of property, and resident either at Aldrich, where yet remains a neat mansion of theirs, near the church, at Aston Parva, or the Birchleys in Lyndon. — Cooper had Antony, of Shenstone, in queen Elizabeth's reign, father of William, Thomas, John, Jane (1598), and Ellen. Thomas died in 1667; William and John had children. John Cooper, of Worcester, gent. sold (1665) lands in this parish, called Dukes-field, to Ann Wakeman, of London, widow, daughter of Sampson Collins, of Aston.

— Cooper, of Aldrich, or Aston, had issue William Cooper, clerk, whose children were, 1. Thomas, who died young, and unmarried; 2. John; 3. William, a clerk, who had a benefice in the Moorlands, left one daughter; she died without issue; 4. Richard, who died young; and three daughters; Mary, wife of Henne, of Birmingham; Elizabeth; and Anne, wife of John Wigan, of Aldrich, she died without issue; Elizabeth was married to Smallwood, of Birmingham, by whom she had a son, father of Thomas Cowper Smallwood. John Cowper married Mary, daughter of Leigh, attorney at law, at Aldrich, father of John Leigh, vicar of Shenstone and Whittington; the last was given him by this John Cowper, his brother-in-law, after which he sold the advowson to Levett, esq. of Lichfield, whose son, the reverend Richard Levett, enjoys it. I here add to what is already said of John Leigh, clerk, and his family, that by Sarah, his wife, of Cleybrook in Leicestershire, he left a daughter Catharine, born in 1743, who died unmarried in 1769, at Packland Hall, in the county of Warwick, and was entombed in Shenstone church, April 15. Sarah, widow of the reverend John Leigh, died in 1745. Thomas, brother of this John Leigh,

Leigh, marrying the daughter and heir of Fetherstone *, or Fetherstonagh, took the name and arms of that family, and had issue one daughter, heir to her mother; she died unmarried at Packwood, in 1769. By his second wife, daughter of Thomas Lane, of Bentley Hall, near Wednesbury (descended of an ancient stock at Hyde and Bentley, in Staffordshire, distinguished for their loyalty to king Charles I. and king Charles II. and for being notable agents in preserving the latter prince after the battle of Worcester), he had issue one daughter, who died at Packwood in 1768, leaving by Dilke, of Maxtock Castle and Packwood, several children.

John Cowper, gent. of Little Aston, and Mary Leigh, having no issue, Thomas Cowper, of Aldrich, was his heir, and, as I think, his nephew (son of Thomas), who resided at Newark upon Trent, Nottinghamshire, where he married in 1756, and died in 1768, without issue; upon whose decease, Thomas Cowper Smallwood aforefaid became heir to his estates in Aldrich, with the old family mansion there; also to that in Little Aston, with the Birchleys, Owls Hall, in Lyndon, and other lands. This gentleman, late of Birmingham, now of Aldrich, is married, but hath no issue.

I find mention of Thomas Cowper, clerk, who, by Mary his wife, had issue Richard, born in 1700; and another Richard, born in 1702, in this parish; also of Mr. Thomas Cowper, living here in 1706, most likely of the lineage of those at Aston. Thomas, who died in 1667, was the person who resided at Owls Hall in Lynn, and left ten shillings yearly to poor widows, as we have already observed.

* Thomas Leigh, of Aldrich, gent. married Dorothy Fetherstone, of Packwood, at Shenstone, 1720.

Scott Cradock, gent. (nephew to Richard Scott, esq.) lived at Aston in 1735, and carried on the iron-works at the forge, half a mile below the village. He married Elizabeth Griffyths, and died in 1740, leaving issue three daughters, Mary, Anne, and Elizabeth.

This forge, now in the tenure of John Wood, of Wednesbury, gent. is the property of Andrew Hacket, esq. as are the water mills for grinding corn in the holding of William Mills, and the wood or large coppices near Radley Moors; with a farm of eighty acres of land, lying near the forge, with an extensive right of common, late in the possession of Thomas Hammond, deceased, after of Thomas Legar, now of Thomas Ward, of Aston, and Jordan, of Hill. These, with other estates, came to Andrew Hacket, esq. in marriage with Mary Scott. Lands, called the Liffes, formerly Prophet's, Row Meadows, and Moors, formerly Jordan's (who yet have a little farm here), were in the late William Collins, from whom they went to William Tenant, esq.

John Birch, in 1667, paid, with his mother, a widow, to the assessment for the royal aid; he, and Elizabeth his wife, sold sixteen acres in the adjoining moor, to William Pretty, of Fafely, gent. on a lease of 500 years, who passed them to John Brown of Thornes; he to James Adams, of Fotherley, confirmed by Rowland Fryth, lord of the manor; witnessed by John Brown, Joseph Surten, and George Bulkeley.

Aston, which is in circle not less than four miles, is bounded South by the Chace, or Colefield, to the Bourn; next by the parish of Aldrich, extending itself towards Mill Green, and the great road between London and Chester; North, by the Boffes, and onward by Radley Moor, and Radley Moor End; Eastwardly by Hill, or Little Sutton, to the Chace.

The

The whole of Aston, generally speaking, is very bad land, and full of morasses. The famous Ickenild road enters this parish at Aston, of which I mean to speak particularly hereafter.

The second great division of Shenstone parish is named Stonall side of the Bourn; in it are reckoned Over-stonall, Nether-stonall, Lynn or Lyndon, Thornes, Chesterfield, Wall, Hill Town, or Swynfen.

STONHALL hath different derivations; from the stony well, for such there was in this berwick; from the stony hill on which the town stands, or from Stone Hall, it being named in a deed dated 1140 *Stonehala*.

That part of Stonall superior which lies nearest the church is full two miles from it, thence extending itself two miles to Shire Oak Tree upon Walfall wood. The village, or town, is situate on a fine rising ground on every side affording an extensive and delightful prospect from its summits; the Castles and Shire Oaks hill into the counties of Salop, Worcester, Leicester, Derby, Warwick, if not Cheshire; itself standing nearly in the center of Staffordshire. It lies in such a manner, as in a good measure to be separated from the rest of this parish by large roads, being divided from Lynn and Nether-stonall by the highway from Birmingham and Little Aston, through Thornes, from a part of Lynn by the Whitacres and Sandalls, running in cornerwise to Castle Hill, and by the Lichfield road to Walfall, by the parish of Aldrich, a considerable length, with Druids
beath

heath to Thornes; in the whole, above five miles compass. Over-stonall, soon after the Conquest, was the property of the D'Oyleys, of which noble house lord Robert Fitz Nigel D'Oyley, in 1129, gave it to the abbey of Osney in the county of Oxford, by the name of one of the two Stonhala's, with their chapels; but, as other places are passed in the same charter, I am not perfectly satisfied that this town or hamlet had any chapel, that of Stonall inferior lying so near as half a mile, and therefore such a place of public worship seems unnecessary in Over-stonall.

. D'Oyley *, high constable of England, who gave the manor of the Moss, in Shenstone, to the abbot of Osney, had a castle in this place, called Old Fort.

There are in many places of this kingdom fortifications made of earth, cast up into high entrenchments, with large ditches round them, in such manner and form as the high places would admit of, that may be presumed to be of the old Britons. That they fortified after this manner, as well as with stones, we have the evidence of Tacitus, who says, that the Icenî (a people seated in this part of the country, as well as on the other side of the kingdom) chose for their place of fighting a situation fenced with a bank † of earth, having a narrow entrance to keep off the horse. Of the same kind was this at Over-stonall, where was an old fortification upon the eminence, well known by the name of the Castles, or Old Fort (*castrum vetus*, in British *Castlebean*), encompassed with a trench ‡ 160 paces broad. There seem to have

* See papers of Richard Wilkes, M. D.

† Septum agresti aggere, aditu angusto ne pervius equiti foret locus. Tacitus, Annal. xii. 31.

‡ One hundred and sixty paces broad between the two entrances at least.

been

been two ways of entrance, on the South-east and North-west sides. Dr. Plott is of opinion also, that this was a British rampart, though the reason of the name Oldfort may be the most satisfactory ; it might have the appellation from its owner, *Oylesfort*, or by corruption *Old fort*. To the castles, and called from them, belongs a considerable quantity of land, sold by Thomas Dickenson to the late lord of the manor, now a farm in the tenure of James Penn, under William Tenant, esq.

At the extreme part of the parish, one mile from Upperstonall, is *Catt's hill* (fortè *Canute's hill*), upon Cannock-wood, universally allowed to be a low, or tumulus, on the great Roman road called Watling-street.

It was the constant custom of the Romans to make their funeral monuments, or tumuli, near the highways, whence ‘*siste viator*,’ and ‘*abi viator*’ (stop, or go on, traveller), were proper terms in their inscriptions, but very absurdly taken from them, and put upon monuments in the inside of a church, of which we have too many instances. The Pagan Britons, Saxons, and Danes, made their tombs very like the Roman tumuli, from which word came the French *tombeaux*. Numbers of these sepulchral hills, by the country people called *burroughs* (from Beorg, a Saxon word for *collis*, a hill), are to be met with in this island, and of different magnitudes, according to the quality of the officer entombed. The lowest was not buried without each soldier under his command laying a turf on the grave; and the S. T. T. L. on some monumental inscriptions (*sit tibi terra levis*), *i. e.* ‘May this earth be light,’ plainly alludes to this custom. It cannot then be wondered at, that these tumuli of ours are often of extraordinary bulk; when, upon a general there went the whole power of the Roman army in Britain, as well as many of the natives, to raise them. They seem to have been raised from

D d

a flat

a flat superficies, and the deficiencies near them generally shew where the earth was taken. Instances of it appear at Holgate, near the city of York, where three such hills were raised for Severus the emperor; one to his memory, the other two in honour to his sons. No sort of monument can subsist longer, for nothing but an earthquake can destroy them. Seneca mentions them as great * banks of earth raised to a great height.

It seems too, that the Romans burnt the bodies of the slain to prevent the abusing of the dead bodies; as was the case of Quintilius Varius, their general, slain in Germany by enemies that thirsted after an inhumane and hostile revenge; otherwise it was not customary among them. Several lows or barrows have been dug up, and burnt bones and charcoal have been found.

If any consul, or eminent warrior, died in their expedition, his body was burnt upon the level, near the *Via Strata*, or *Militaris*, great roads. Having by this method deprived the exasperated enemy of their hope of ever being able to abuse the dead body, they likewise prevented their scattering the bones in haste, when the whole army heaped upon them pure grassy turfs cut from the surface of the ground, which is the reason why it doth not appear by any hollowness whence the earth was taken that raised the tumulus.

On the borders of Shenstone on the Cannoc, adjoining to the Watling-street, is a rise or swell of land, with three trenches; the circuit of this rise is nearly eighty three yards; it hath the appearance of a barrow, and, having a fir tree growing on the center, serves as a guide or landmark to strangers over a wild and desolate heath. The nearest trench is five or six yards deep,

* *Terrenos tumulos in magnam eductos celsitudinem.*

reckoning its gradual descent from the plain ground; the second is nearly the same; the third is full six yards; though greatly below the Castles and Shire Oak hills, it affords no despicable view of the adjoining country.

Dr. Plott gives an account of this place in the following terms: "Of what use was the treble entrenchment on the South side
" of the Watling-street, near Frog-Homer, called *Knaves-castle*,
" which is not above forty, or at most fifty yards diameter, in
" the middle whereof there is a round hill, now excavated, I
" cannot imagine, being so very small. The tradition is, that
" this heath being formerly all wood, and much infested with
" robberies, here was a watch set to guard strangers over it, for
" which the passengers allowed some small gratuity. Others say,
" that the robbers themselves harboured in this place, and that,
" therefore, it was called *Knaves-castle* *." Though there remain
no signs of a fort, it seems very likely to have been one to guard
strangers passing over so wild and dreary a country as Cannoc wood
is at present; much more was it such formerly, when full of woods
and thickets. I am inclined to give the name of it another solu-
tion, that it was *Canute's* or *Knute's* castle, now corruptly *Knaves-*
castle, who, after the troubles between king Edmund Ironside
and himself were appeased, might place such guards or stations
to keep in quiet the lawless in this part of Mercia, which was
utterly uncultivated, or such as, being adherents to his rival,
would not submit to his government. This, though a conjec-
ture, seems not improbable, Cannoc, or Canute's wood, being
so called from him.

Half a mile from Knute's, or Knaves-castle, are Occamfley
pits, of which there are several so named, and, though not in

* Dr. Plott. Staffordshire, c. X. § 84, p. 448.

the parish, may deserve notice. They lie upon or near the Watling-street, and not far from Frog Homer; one of them hath been remarked by curious persons, as never holding water for the least moment of time after the greatest shower, or the most durable rain, though all the neighbouring pits are filled to the brim; this is in circuit ninety yards. Dr. Plott * says, he saw an experiment of this, for, after above a month's constant rain, he found one pit as dry and as hard as the highest gravelly ground in the street-way; the weight of himself and horse not making any visible impression on the bottom of it, though all the rest about it then stood brimful of water, and to all appearance lying higher, that is, not so dead as this, and nothing interposing but a spongy heathy soil, which he confessed was utterly unaccountable, unless it were sufficient to suspect, that the bottom of the dry pit, though hard and found, may be a loose open gravel through which water may presently descend; and the bottoms and sides of the rest may be either a stiff clay, or some other earth that holds the water. An attempt was lately made to get gravel in this pit, but it was found to be utterly unfit for the purpose, consisting of a sort of red sand, and a kind of pox stone.

Shire Oaks is the name of a farm upon the summit of a hill so called, lying to the great roads from Lichfield and Shenstone (which here unite), towards Walfall. A large oak in the valley, a quarter of a mile from this farm, separates Shenstone from Walfall, or Walfall wood, and is named Shire Oak, from the word *Scyre*, to divide, and is four miles from Shenstone church. Enclosure was made by John Smyth, lord of the manor, with the consent of the freeholders. Hence, as we noted, is a fine prospect, but the place itself is remarkable for nothing more

* Chap. III. § 10.

than a land-mark. In former times, when full of woods, it was a den of thieves. It lies on the road between London and Chester; one hundred and sixty acres of it are in the holding of James Penn, under William Tenant, esq.

Upon the decline of the eminence upon which stood the fort or castle, stands a neat modern-built house, erected by —— Twyford; after the estate of John Fenton, since of Richard Whitehouse, and Samuel his son; now of Peter Tomkis, in right of his wife, widow of Samuel Whitehouse.

Somewhat lower stands the old inn, called and known through the kingdom by the name of the Welch harp. This large house had its name from the raising of a booth, in order to supply travellers upon the great road between London and Chester. From this beginning John Smith chiefly raised a good fortune; he left John, William, and a daughter, who married Taylor, of Chesterfield. Upon her son by him she settled part of her estate, and then re-married to Thomas Smyth, of Lichfield, gent. at whose house William Smyth, of London, died, who left the legacy of five pounds yearly for the setting out poor boys apprentices from Over-stonall. To the purchases that John made, William, his nephew, added more, bought of the Readings, a very old family in this parish, and possessed of much land, but now entirely disposed of. William, dying a bachelor, left the greatest part of his acquisitions to John his nephew, who immediately set up for a gentleman, keeping his chariot, and a pack of hounds. These things, with other extravagances, and neglect of business upon one of the most frequented roads in England, shortened his fortune. What is still notable of this family is, that a daughter of this John Smyth became a pauper, and, in 1766, was found starved to death near Wall.

The

The Welch harp, with 120*l. per ann.* lands, or upwards, passed by purchase to Joseph Parker, of Lichfield, gent. who, having no issue, hath settled this estate upon Joseph Elde, of Shentone, gent. and his issue by Mary, daughter of Burton, of Derbyshire, gent. descended of the Burtons of Lindley in Leicestershire, in the reign of Henry VIII. of Falde, in Staffordshire, and Higham, in the reign of Henry VI. originally from Sir James de Burton, knight, ranger of Needwood forest, as appears by letters patent in the reign of Richard I. By her he hath Joseph, Thomas, and four daughters. The business of inn-keeping is laid aside, and the land is in the tenure of James Penn.

In opposition to the Welch harp, Rowland Fryth, esq. erected a large inn near, upon the same road, annexing to it a considerable farm. This is a very handsome and commodious house, the property of William Tenant, esq. in the tenure of the aforesaid James Penn, who hath lately made great alterations and improvements in the house and the offices belonging to it; this bears the name of the Welch Harp and Swan.

Near this house stood lately an old mansion half timbered, with a court walled out to the road; and on each side of the court were planted yew-trees, and other ever-greens, in the same taste. This, with lands valued at 40*l.* a year, John Sylvester sold to Joseph Parker, of Lichfield, gent. whose property they are at this present (1770). John Sylvester had issue a son John, who died, aged 25, a bachelor; and a daughter, wife of John Yates, of London; both which children, by their extravagance, helped to dissipate their father's substance, and thereby quite reduced a family that had lived here before the reign of queen Elizabeth. Richard Sylvester is mentioned to reside at Upperstonall in the 13th year of the reign of king James I. Another,
Richard

Richard (1654), fold lands in this hamlet to the Wyatts family ; part of them were called Carters field.

In the rebellion (king Charles I.) John Sylvester, of this place, was an active parliamentarian. By Anne, his wife, he left John ; he died in 1688 ; his wife in 1665. William, his son, was living in the reign of king Charles II. I find also William, of the same place (king Charles I.). William, John, and Robert, of Stonall, paid to the royal aid in 1667. John Sylvester, John his son, with his wife, and Robert, in 1692, paid to the poll-tax ; all of Over-stonall.

At a little distance from the town stands a neat mansion, mostly half-timbered, except an additional part in 1769, well known by the name of Penford-house. Pen is a British word, signifying the top of a hill ; exactly the case here, for the rivulet so named hath its rise in the higher ground, and maketh a wash-way, or ford, near the house, and upon the road to Aldrich by Coppice-hall, over Druids-heath.

This estate was purchased of ——— Reading, by whom I have not learnt ; that family, which I think was Vere's, fold it to John Strickson, esq. of whom the honourable and reverend Richard Hill purchased it ; from Samuel, his nephew, of Shenstone-park, it came to Thomas Hill, esq. of Terne in Shropshire, whose son, Samuel, dying a bachelor, it passed, with other lands, to Noel Hill, esq. John Vere, of Penford-house, died about 1742, reduced in his circumstances, being long supported by Samuel Hill of Shenstone-park, from motives of compassion towards a good family, that had been in possession of it.

The Brandreths had lands in Upper-stonall, part of which, near the fields, called Briar's Flatts, purchased of the Erpes, was in the tenure of John Smyth, named the Gentleman ; this

was

was Samuel Hill's, of Shenstone, and passed to Thomas, of Terne; Samuel and Noel, his sons.

Between Stonall and the Whitacres are a parcel of lands named in the Sandalls, or Sandhills, from the nature of the soil, in the hands of several persons. William Tenant, lord of the manor, hath, besides other pieces, a wood of good timber, though much of it is fallen: John Taylor, of Walsall, gent. owns a share of them, on which grows some fine young timber, but chiefly underwood, purchased of Thomas Lander, of Aldrich, who bought it of Thomas Cooper, of Aldrich, gent. — Allen, of the Welch Harp, had another dividend, which passed to —, his daughter, wife of Thomas Everett, of Birmingham, late of Aldrich, who sold it to Sylvester, of Hammerwich, on whose decease, in 1768, Webb, of Lichfield, enjoys the same in right of his wife, sister of Webb. Three closes, called Sandhills, were the estate of Thomas Passaw, of London, who, dying in 1768, left them to his father, Richard Passaw, of Upper Stonall, yet living, with three closes, called Hill fields, or Sandhill fields, adjoining; the whole of the Sandhills now enclosed is a mile in compass.

In this hamlet hath long been seated a family of note (who had a considerable estate here, though now sold or wasted), as being a collateral branch of the Haws, of Caldmore, near Walsall, the last of which, an heiress, lately married Parker, esq. of Park-hall in Staffordshire, eldest son of lord chief baron Parker.

In the reign of king Charles II. we meet with George Haw, of Upper-stonall, gent. who had issue, by Catharine his wife, George * William, born in 1678, and Walter, who was settled

* Who paid poll-tax in 1692.

in the iron trade, in London, and acquired a good fortune; he left issue Walter, who died unmarried; and William, of London, who was also engaged in the iron manufactory. George, son of George aforesaid, his uncle, was in part his heir, living then at Stonhall; he had issue George, who spent most of his estate, and died a bachelor (1766); Walter, and others.

William Haw, in 1732, possessed lands in Carters-field, Hill-field, near the Feathers, or Feather-shut. George, who died in 1766, sold part of his estate to William Tenant. esq; and several tenements to ——— Mofs, of Rushall; he had lands called Wollongs, a moor near Bulmores, and in the High-fields, but all the family estates here are dissipated.

Haw's arms: Sable, a chevron between two leopards heads erased, Or, armed Gules.

Many branches of the *Readings* were here before queen Elizabeth's reign, in Over-stonall, Nether-stonall, and Lyndon. In 1767, William, two others named Thomas, all of this place, with William Reading, of Lynn, paid to the royal aid. Thomas Reading paid, in 1692, to the poll-tax; one of the name yet lives in Upper-Stonall. Of the same family came Cornelius and John Reading, of Pype-hill (1770), gentlemen. I take it, this name was found in the parish in king Edward the Fourth's time, for I have seen an account, that Richard de Rudding leased lands here in the year 1470. In the 8th year of the reign of James I. Rowland Rudding purchased lands belonging to the Mofs; and 13 James I. the Calves-pieces in Over-stonall, with lands in Footherley. Penford, Quebbs, part of the Welch Harp estate, with lands in the two Stonalls, and Lyndon, were in this family, some of which bear their name.

In king Charles the First's time a family named *Bankes* had good property in this village, particularly at Leetsfield; also

Banks moors *, near Chesterfield; Alexander and John Banks were of Over-stonall, in the reign of king Charles I. John had issue Edmund, born in 1656; John; and Robert; with other children.

A branch of the great family of *Sekerton*, or *Seckington*, had possessions in Stonall, for William de Seckerton, rector of the church of Honton, descended of William, brother to lord Geoffry de Camvil de Clifton, who had Seckington manor, in the county of Warwick, from which place he took his name. In the reign of king Henry III. he passed such lands to Hugh Fitzwilliam, Nichols de Allersshale, and to Thomas his brother, lying in Stonall, in presence of Radulph de la Wall, Thomas de Polefworth, and others; the deed is dated at Allersshall, the first day after the feast of St. Hillary, in the 13th year of the reign of king Edward III. after the Conquest, in 1340.

King James I. had lands here, which he passed over, in the 8th year of his reign, to Peter Alport, esq. and to Rowland Fryth, esq.

In the middle of the street at Upper-stonall stood a stone cross; the base of stone in which the pillar was fixed yet remains. What the intention of placing such an one here is not very plain. It might be set up at first when a decree was made by the church, that every parish in places most frequented should set up such a cross. When the parishioners examine their bounds in their processioning, the Gospel is read at this stone, and the usual ceremonies repeated; yet it cannot be as limits, because the parish extends itself from it a mile, or more, every way. A cross was sometimes erected in public places of concourse, to put people in mind of the great benefit God hath

* And the Gorsly moors, now in the possession of Jos. Wadam.

vouchsafed for the redemption of mankind by the passion of his Son, which, no question, to all pious Christians was of very good use; however, upon pretence that they were idolized, they were generally demolished throughout the whole kingdom. I have seen one of these stone pillars in the road between Walsall and West Bromwich. They are of a round polished stone, much like those upon which dials are often placed (as in Shenstone church yard), but vastly higher. Not being satisfied with these accounts, and knowing no good reason for the setting up such pillars or crosses, I should gladly receive information on this head, or, indeed, in any matters mentioned in this treatise; it being impossible not to err; and many persons, who have it in their power, will communicate nothing towards making this account more useful.

South and South-west of Upper-stonall, is a large common or heath, called *Druid's beatb*; part of it is in Shenstone parish, lying to the two Stonalls and Thornes, but the right of common or pasture is in Nether-stonall, that of the other Stonall being towards the Castles and Shire Oak on Cannock. The far greatest part is in Aldrich, and the whole so called is in circuit four miles. Tradition informs us, that on the Aldrich side, upon a bank yet remaining, at a small distance from Coppice hall, stood a temple of the Druids. The best account of them is, that among the Celtes in the earliest times, the Curetes, and afterwards the Druids and Bards, were the interpreters of their laws, judged all cases, whether criminal or civil; and their sentence was reckoned so sacred, that whoever refused to abide by it, was by them excluded from assisting at the sacred rites. After this no man dared to converse with him, so that this punishment was reckoned the most severe of all, even death itself.

They were named Druids from the Greek word *Drus*, an oak, which tree was accounted holy both by the Scythians and Celtes. They performed most of their religious ceremonies near or under large oaks, if not in groves of oaks, and offered no sacrifice without some leaves from that tree. Cæsar tells us they performed the sacrifices and religious rites, were expounders of religion to the people, and instructed youth in all kinds of learning, such as Philosophy, Astronomy, Theology, the immortality and transmigration of the soul from one body to another, which was both an incitement to virtue, and an antidote against the fear of death. These they taught their disciples by word of mouth, esteeming them too sacred to be committed to writing. Other more common subjects, such as their hymns to their deities, the exploits of their princes and generals, their exhortations to the people in time of war, were all couched in elegant verse, and recited, or rather sung, by them on all proper occasions; though even these were also kept from vulgar eyes, and either committed to memory, or, if to writing, the whole was a secret to the laity; the latter, indeed, seems most probable, if what Cæsar intimates be exactly just, that those poetic records were in his time increased to such a size, that it took the young bards near twenty years to learn them by heart*.

We are likewise told, that these poets used to accompany their songs with instrumental music, such as that of the organ, harp, and the like. That they were held in such veneration, that if any army was engaged in battle, upon the appearance of one of these bards or poets, both parties instantly left off fighting; so that their fury gave way to wisdom, and Mars to the Muses. But the true reason was, that they were universally looked upon as prophets, so that it was thought dangerous, as well as injurious,

* De Bell. Gall. vi. 13, 14.

to disobey what they supposed came from the Gods. These prophetic philosophers kept academies, which were resorted to by a great number, not only of their own youth, but those of other countries; so that their philosophy and learning were carried into Greece and other countries. It was then the business and employment of those Druids and Bards to compose hymns and songs, to record therein the actions of those that signalized themselves in stories, which were afterwards sung at their games and solemnities, as well as when they went out to war, which had such an effect upon their soldiers, that they chose rather to die than be taken prisoners. We could enlarge yet more on these bards, but what we have said will suffice to give the reader some good idea of them, and of Druids heath. By degrees they became cruel, and sacrificed human victims; but, we may reasonably conjecture, when such customs were admitted, they must greatly have degenerated from their excellent institution, and their original principles.

Some authors take notice of *Druids meer* on this heath, as prognosticating a dearth by its overflowing in abundance; there is such a water or pool, of which the present William Mills, of Little Aston mill, near it, says, that he hath known it twice to overflow, and observed, that corn afterwards bore a larger price than usual. If this happened in a dry season, it would be more remarkable, but such omen or overflowing may, perhaps, be imputed to the great rains, which are frequently the occasion of a scarcity of corn in England.

Yet we may observe, that at Billington, in this county, is a pool called *Hungry Pit*, which, as people say, foreshews scarcity. Some persons set up sticks in the mud, and forejudge the rise and fall of the corn in the markets by the rise and fall of the water upon those sticks, and so keep or sell their corn accordingly.

cordingly. Here, indeed, the motions of the waters are something strange, little regarding the quality of the weather; for, this pit overflows sometimes in the greatest drought, and often is empty after great falls of rain: and, as to the prediction, whether it be by chance or not is hard to say; but many serious people in that neighbourhood have testified, that the remarks made upon it by some have been so profitable to them, that they have thereby considerably advanced their fortunes.

Since the writing an account of the Castles aforesaid, in this district of Overstonall, another hath occurred to me, which is as follows; "That Cannock, or Cane-wood (*quasi Canuti Sylva*), was a name given to this forest when the Danes, under Canute, had many disputes with king Ethelred, and Edmund Ironside, his son, for the kingdom. Canute made several inroads into Mercia, especially in the years 1013 and 1016. Among other places, he possessed himself of this forest, called still by his name, Cane-wood. Upon the edge of it there still remains a large fortification, encompassed with a double bank and trench, which are in a manner circular, except on the South-east side, which runs pretty straight, so that it seems to hold the figure of a theatre of about 270 paces diameter, which must take in more of the Castle land than what is commonly reckoned in this rampart. For the name sake, and because it is upon the verge of Cannock wood, it may have been his work, and cast up by him; but if we suppose it was cast up by the Mercians hereabouts, to defend themselves against Canute's incursions into their own country, when he made the horrible devastations mentioned by historians, we can see no absurdity in giving it the name of Canute's castle, who was the cause of its making, though it might gain another, either Old fort, or Oyles fort, after the Conquest.

Over-

Over ftonall does not contain above forty houfes at prefent ; but feveral have been taken down, or have fallen, within the memory of many of its inhabitants.

T H O R N E S

Is in this diftrict ; but, as it is of fome note, and is often fpoken of as a village of itfelf, we fhall confider it as fuch. Some reckon a part of it in Lynne, but I think it fhould rather be annexed to Nether-ftonall, lying to the edge of it every way, and feparated by a common road from Lynne. It derives its name from *Thorney*, a Saxon word, denoting a fituation among bufhes, and uncultivated foil ; for the fame reafon Weftminfter had the name of Thorney, in the Saxon times.

This was a manor in the parifh of Shenftone, and belonged to a family of the name of *Thornes*, in the reign of Henry VI. who, moft likely, purchafed lands here from the lords of the manor, and, as was ufual in thofe days, and earlier, took the name of Thornes from the place. Thomas Thornes had iffue Thomas, who, in 1470, leafed this houfe to Richard, of the Rudding, which Thomas is faid to be of Salop. It did not continue long in the Ruddings, or Readings, for, in 1497, Roger Thornes, of Thornes, again leafed it to Robert Jolliffe and his wife for fixty years, the chief or referved rent being only 6s. 8d. yearly ;

yearly; to this lease are witnesses Sir Humphry Stanley, knight; George Stanley, and John Whyrley, esqrs. Ten years after, the said Roger Thornes conveyed it absolutely to the same Robert Jolliffe and his heirs for ever; he had issue a son, whose daughter, Alice Jolliffe, conveyed it (as I think) in marriage to Edward Fryth, esq. Yet the same antiquary, the late learned Dr. Wilkes, who gives us the chief part of this account, says, in another place, that Balmerino, a Scotchman, who had it from king Charles, passed Thornes, a member of the manor of Shenstone, to Rowland Fryth. If Edward Fryth abovesaid had only the mansion of Thornes, and not what is before termed a manor, and Rowland, son or grandson of Edward, purchased of Balmerino the manor rights of Thornes, though subject to Shenstone, it may reconcile the two accounts. We shall distinguish too, by this means, at what time the Fryth family settled here; and likewise shall discern when Shenstone manor itself came to them, namely, in the reign of king Charles I. as will hereafter appear.

Thornes hall was, no question, a mansion of some note in the reign of king Edward IV. erected by Thomas de Thornes, who laid out the lands belonging to it in those days, and, in all probability, Robert Jolliffe added to that structure, or raised a new one in a low situation, under a hill and a covert of wood, without prospect, except from the hinder part of it towards Stonall and Cannoc wood; on the front of it is a road from Birmingham Sutton, and Little Aston, over Druids heath, on the verge of which it stands, by Nether-stonall edge and Lyndon green, through Cranebrook and Hilton to Lichfield. The Fryths erected another, which seems not older than the days of king William III. mostly of brick, and strong. It must have been a large house from what yet remains; the two wings for offices or
stables

stables in the front, and much of the back building being taken away, the present part, now a farm in the tenure of Richard Farnell, is spacious and convenient, with a handsome court in the front placed high with brick, in the style of the house itself. It had a dove-house, rookery, large walled gardens, court-yards, and orchards, but these are in a good measure levelled or rooted up as unnecessary to a tenant with the farm. Near it is a place called the Butts, from its having been a ground set apart for the exercise of archers before fire-arms became so frequent as they now are. Some persons of seeming veracity have affirmed to me, that there grew a thick wood of large timber near Thornes, upon the adjoining eminence, which, about the year 1718, was all blown down in one night by a strong wind. Others supposed, that it was occasioned by an earthquake, and observed, that the roots of the thickest and firmest trees were strangely torn up, and lay out of the ground. Of the Fryths we mean to speak when we treat particularly of the lords of the manor.

Opposite to Thornes, in the same street, stands a mansion, of itself not worth our notice, but as it belongs to a family of good extraction, named *Stanley*, we may not omit it.

This branch of the Stanleys, besides the agreement of their arms, is generally looked upon to be of the same lineage with the earls of Derby, and, it is said, one of the late earls was satisfied of it; but of this we can give no proof. It seems most likely the Stanleys of Lyndon hall, and the two families at the Moss and Thornes, were collateral branches of the great house of Derby, one of which was settled at Elford in this county; the family also we speak of had estates in that place, or near it, also at Edinghall, near Elford.

We find, that Thomas, in 1583, of Shenstone parish, had issue, 1. Henry; 2. Thomas; Alice, married to Henry Symmonds, gent.; Joan, wife of John Adams; Elizabeth, and Margaret. Henry died in 1589, without issue. Thomas, by Margaret his wife, had issue Thomas, William, Margery, Dorothy, and Elizabeth. Thomas, by Joan his wife, had issue another Thomas, born in 1664; and Elizabeth; also Dorothy, wife of George Harrison, of Bloxwich, gent. grandfather to — Harrison, of the same place, gent. 1770. The father died in 1687. Thomas lived some time at Fotherley, and, by Mary his wife had issue Thomas, born in 1702; Edward, born in 1712; and Eleanor, who died in 1715. Thomas possessed lands in Thornes, Fotherley, Little Sutton, and elsewhere; by —, daughter and heir of — Handley, of Fotherley, had issue Thomas, John, or Joshua, a tanner in the city of Lichfield, who died unmarried about the year 1755, and one daughter, married to — Seale, of Edinghale, by whom she had no issue; secondly, to — Hill, of Edinghale, by whom she hath a daughter, aged two years. Thomas, now of Thornes, is a bachelor.

In 1767, Thomas Stanley paid 2s 6d. ob'. quarterly assessment to the royal aid. In 1692, widow Stanley, and son, paid to the poll-tax.

Under the article of Fotherley I spoke of the Browns, of that place, and Thornes, therefore I have not repeated the account here, but have lately met with the following remark, not inserted in Fotherley; "That William Brown, of Thornall (Thornes " hall), in the 18th year of the reign of James I. reserved a " power to settle an estate upon a wife by deed, and after mar- " ried Anne Lowe, widow, and upon her settled the Thornalls. " He died in 1644, and the Committee at Stafford allowed her to " possess

“poffefs her jointure. Signed Edward Leigh, H. Stone, Ph.
 “Jackfon, Leicefter Barbour, and William Bendy.” Samuel
 Brown, mentioned at Footherley hall, probably was his fon.

N E T H E R S T O N A L,

Or, as it is often called, Stonall Inferior, and Lower Stonall, is in circuit three miles, separated by the high road to Birmingham and Afton Parva, from Mill green, Druids heath, and Thornes, leading over Lyndon green; from Stafford and Lichfield over Cannoc-wood; and is bounded by Lyndon, Footherley, the Boffes, Thornes, and Druid heath, towards Aldrich, and by a fmall part of Over Stonall. It is, in fome degree, more noted than either of thefe hamlets, as being the place of worship for the inhabitants on this fide of the parifh.

Robert de Olgio, fon of the baron of that place, or caftle, in Normandy, was one of the adventurers who attended William duke of Normandy, in his attempt upon England; and, as a reward for his fervices had, among other goodly manors and lordships, this of Nether Stonall, which he granted * to the collegiate church of St. George, near Oxford; his fucceffors

* Terram de utraque Stonehala, Forefthulle, &c. cum capellis in eisdem, bofcis, villenagiis, redditibus, decimis, et aliis rebus de feodo ejus ecclesiæ Sti' Georgii pertinentibus, dedit Robertus Fitz Nigel de Oileo, cœnobio de Ofeneio, ann. 1129.
 Monast. Ang. II. 138.

confirmed his charter, and of these the charter of Henry the Second of that name baron D'Oyley and Hooknorton, in Oxfordshire, confirms the church of Seneftan, and other its rights, to Osney abbey; to this is witness Robert D'Oyley, his brother, afterwards the sixth English baron of that family, in the reigns of king Richard I. and king John.

I find certain lands, as demesne, continued in the abbey of South Osney till Robert King, the last abbot, surrendered the abbey, with its estates, to king Henry VIII. in 1539, after being annexed to it 410 years, among which are named its lands and rights in Over Stonall, Shenstone, Nether Stonall, and Thornes. These remained in the crown till the reign of James I. who, in the third year of his reign, passed them away by letters patent, dated at Westminster, July 2, to Rowland Fryth, and Peter Alport, esq. and their heirs.

Not only the people of this hamlet, but all the parishioners of Shenstone, have a tradition of a chapel in old times, situate in the upper part of it towards Thornes and the road leading to Upper-tonall, but mixed with fable. Assuredly some charters, dated in the reigns of Henry I. and Stephen, take notice of such chapel or chapels in Stonall. There is, as a farther evidence of it, a piece of land called the Chapel piece, consisting of three acres and an half, divided into two parts, one the property of Thomas Stanley, of Thornes, the other of Thomas Adcock, of Lyndon. Around this are several enclosures, called by the names of the Chapel field, Chapel hills, Church fields, and Church leasows, which, most probably, were lands formerly appropriated for the maintenance of the clergymen who officiated at Shenstone church, or this chapel of ease to it, at Nether Stonall. The very year when the chapel was taken away may in part be known from this circumstance; that, in the year

1545,

1545, in the reign of Henry VIII. it was ordered by act of parliament, that where the glebes, tythes, and revenues, of a church, are not sufficient to find a priest or curate to minister in a chapel, within a mile, or some such distance, from the church; and the repairs, ornaments, and duties, are too expensive for the parishioners of both churches, if one be not above the yearly value of six pounds, as rated and valued to the king in his courts of first-fruits and tenths, by consent of the ordinary of the diocese where they stand, by the assent of the incumbent, and of such as had just right, title, and interest, to the patronage of them, being of full age; they might be united, and as good in law, and to continue for ever consolidated in such manner and form as by writing or writings under the seals of the ordinary, incumbent, and patron, shall be declared and set forth, reserving to the king the first fruits and tenths.

As the abbey of Osney was dissolved in the year 1539, and all its lands and rights seized and passed to the crown, we may naturally conclude, there was little or nothing left for the support of the minister at Nether Stonall, if, indeed, he was a different person from the vicar of Shenstone. From the time* of the Dissolution under Henry VIII. when such ravages were made upon the monasteries and the estates of the church, serious men have lamented, that a better provision had not been reserved for the maintenance of the clergy, who would thereby have been secured from contempt and distress.

The South chancel of Shenstone church was built, it is said, of materials taken from Nether Stonall chapel, which is not unlikely, being different from the rest of that structure, and chiefly of brick-work; and, as that chapel was dedicated to St.

* See Fiddes's Life of Cardinal Wolsey.

Peter, there is a memorial of it in the work, namely, the keys which are generally given him, and of large proportion, with two crosses, one in the form of that on which our Saviour suffered, the other a common one, framed of bricks burnt of a blue cast. In this chancel the lords of the feignory, named Fryths, had their seats, and in general the inhabitants of Thornes and the Stonall districts.

Hugh de Twine held Stonall, in the reign of William I. or William Rufus, which other lords held under him by military service, but all others under the lord of the fee of whose barony it was. The said Hugh, and those persons who held under him, passed it by charter to the canons of Osenev, in the isle of Osenev, near Oxford, which grant was confirmed at that time by the superior lord Nigel de Olgio, and also in the reign of Henry I. by Henry d' Oyley.

In the upper part of Nether Stonall, near the chapel-yard, stands a very handsome new erected mansion, built by Thomas Dickenson, gent. of a family of some note, and long settled here. In the 19th year of the reign of James I. John Dickenson had lands in Nether Stonall. Thomas is mentioned in certain deeds to have possessed lands in the Heathfield in 1654. Henry, of this place, in 1658, was witness to the purchasing of an estate here, by Anne Bracegirdle, of Gorsecot, near Walsall, of Henry Hunt, of Nether Stonall. Thomas, in the 14th year of the reign of Charles II. had lands in the Nether Hookfield, and was resident here. John, in 1669-70, witnessed a deed of Edward Wyatt's selling land here to John Wadams. The same year John Dickenson, of Ashby-de-la-zouch, in Leicestershire, iron-monger, purchased the Glass-houses, Long-crofts, and Buff-crofts, to which are evidences Thomas Dickenson and Margaret Hall; these lands are in this hamlet. In 1667, Thomas
paid

paid 6s. 1d. ob. quarterly, to the royal aid. In 1669-70, Thomas and John are witneſſes to a deed of John Adcock's paſſing lands to John Wadams; and to Edward Wyatt's ſale of lands to John Wyatt; alſo James Whitehall's ſale of lands to Thomas Oſley; all in Nether Stonall. In 1675, the ſaid Thomas and John were evidences to the ſale of an eſtate by John Wadams to John Adcock of Nether Stonall. In 1667, Thomas, the elder, was truſtee to the marriage ſettlement between Alexander Adcock and Jane Tomkys. In 1661, we find John Dickinson, of Nether Stonall, gent. witneſs to a deed paſſing lands from John Bulkley, of Little Aſton, and Mary, wife of Joſeph Bulkley, ſon of John, to John Wadams; alſo to the ſale of eſtates from John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, to Alexander his brother; and from John Jobbern to the ſame Alexander Adcock. Thomas, ſon of John Dickenſon (1692), and John his ſon, paid the poll-tax for themſelves and wives, which Thomas was living here in 1718. In the year 1714, the ſaid Thomas, with John, then of Tonge in Leiceſterſhire, paſſed a fine of lands in this hamlet to John Adcock, and Thomas Dickenſon living in 1726, if not in 1734, at Nether Stonall. Mary, widow of this Thomas, and daughter to Samuel Brown, of Fotherley-hall, gent. lived to a great age, and happy in enjoying a good ſtate of health till the time of her deceaſe, in January, 1767, being then at leaſt ninety years old. They had iſſue John, who, by ——, daughter of —— Fox, of Coleſhill, in Warwickſhire, had a ſon, now of Biſtone, in Staffordſhire, and three daughters; Mary, wife of Martyn Wood, of Shenſtone, who died in 1761, without iſſue; the others married to —— Shaw, of Walfall, and to ——, of Northampton.

The laſt mentioned Thomas Dickinson, gent. took down the old manſion-houſe and rebuilt the preſent handſome one, with

a. neat

a neat court, and other conveniences, but at such an expence as to injure his family ; he sold it, with the lands adjoining, a part of the Boffes, which the family had long enjoyed, with the Castles, in Upper Stonall, to the late lord of the manor (except that an annuity was reserved for the support of his widow). Since what I observed of the Castles in my account of Upper Stonall, I have learned, that they were formerly the possession of Humphry Edjial, father of Hamlet, father of Humphry, an old man, yet living at Thornes, in this parish, whose ancestors were of note, and gave name to Edjial hall, near Lichfield, the estate of Fettiplace Nott, of Lichfield, esq. The mansion which Thomas Dickenfon sold, with the Boffes, and Castles, are the estates of the present lord of the manor.

The *Hunts* seem to have been inhabitants of this place in early times. John Hunt, gent. died at Nether Stonall, in 1598, and left, as I think, John, who is mentioned in 1606. They had lands in the Chapel-field, Heathfield, Middlefield, and others, named the Church Leasows, Ham, or Hands Riddings, Twenty-acre piece, the Flatts, Codcrofts, Stony-acres, High-ash pieces, Birch acres, Holy-lands, the Two Feathers, Flat-head, Little acres, Gorsty-gap, Sharp acres, with land belonging to Osney abbey, and in the Nether Hook field, most, if not all, lying in this hamlet. The house or messuage that belonged to this family, I take to have been that belonging to John Horton, lately deceased, afterwards to Edward Adcock, and now to Edward Adcock, of the Ashcrofts, his eldest son.

John Hunt, in the 10th year of the reign of James I. sold the Ham Riddings, formerly the estate of the abbots of Osney. He died about the 16th year of the reign of James I. leaving Henry, his eldest son and heir ; Rowland, living in 1646 ; and William ; with three daughters, Mary, Margaret, and ———, wife

wife of Thomas Bibbe. In 1635, Rowland Fryth, esq. released to Henry Hunt his claim in a messuage and lands which he then held. He left issue, as I think, Henry, Rowland, and William. Rowland had issue Henry, who, in 1658, sold to Anne Bracegirdle, of Gorfcot, near Walfall, a messuage, with lands appertaining thereto; a pasture and right of common which had belonged to Osney abbey, and were reputed parcel of the Moss-house manor; also Well-meadow in Nether Stonall before purchased of Alexander Ward, gent. In the 14th year of the reign of king Charles II. the said Anne passed them away to Thomas Offley, of Gorfcot near Walfall, and to Richard Offley, of Brynton in Staffordshire; the same year, Henry Hunt, grandson of John, sold to Thomas Offley, of Gorfcot, and to Richard Offley, of Brynton, a messuage, with a close adjoining, three Church leasows, Twenty-acre piece, land in Nether Hookfield, Stony-acres, High-ash pieces, with the Birch-acres, Holylands, the Two-feathers, Flatt-heads, Little-acres, the flatt in Chapel-field, Gorsty-gap, Sharp-acres, with the timber and right of common on the waste grounds that belonged to the abbey of Osney, reputed as parcel of the Moss-house manor, and which paid eleven shillings yearly to the king.

Henry died in 1652, leaving legacies to William his brother, and to his brother Rowland's children: to Rowland himself 24 acres, also lands in the Chapel field, Middle-field, and Heath-field, with Codcroft, and a flatt; remainder to William, his son; also to Elizabeth, wife of Rowland; to three of his sister's children, and her daughters, named Ashford; to two children of Simon Bibbe, to Isabel Turner's son, and to Isabel, his own wife. Henry, eldest son of Rowland, was made chief heir to considerable possessions, under the direction of Alexander Ward, gent. and others; but he seems to have wasted his estate, and to have

G g

died

died before the year 1616, as a deed I saw mentions his selling other lands a little before, near the time of his decease. Rowland Hunt, of Nether Stonall, and Thomas Hunt, of Lyndon, in this parish, paid, in 1667, to the quarterly assessment for aiding king Charles II.

The family of *Butteries*, or *Bullaries*, were of note here about the time of queen Elizabeth. In the reign of James I. Anthony Butteries was concerned in the sale of lands by Richard Greenhall, of the Ashcrofts, to Rowland Ridding, of Nether Stonall; in the fourth year of the reign of king Charles I. he and Rowland Hunt were empowered by the lords of the manor to give Anne Ridding seisin of Queb-meadows, which she had purchased of the said lords. His issue were Antony, Humphry, and Roger, who all had possessions in Over Stonall, Nether Stonall, and Lyndon, also in the Heath-field. Antony, in 1667, paid to the assessment for the royal aid; in 1670, he sold to John Dickinson, of Ashby de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire, gent. three closes in Nether Stonall and Thorne, called the Glas-houses, Longcroft, and Buttcroft, at this time possessed by Thomas Stanley, of Thornes, gent.

The mansion of the Butteries family I suppose to be that in the tenure of William Swan, late the estate of Martyn Wood, next of John Levett, of Whichnover, esq. now of John Dolphyn. Antony Butteries abovesaid retired to Burton upon Trent, and, dying there in 1676, was entombed at Shennstone. This is the latest account I meet with of this family.

The *Wyatts* were of note in this parish, being settled in Footherly, Lynn, Over Stonall, and Nether Stonall; but, as their principal mansion was in the last-mentioned hamlet, I chose to speak of them here. In all probability they have long had possessions there, as we find them nearly as soon as the parish-register begins.

begins. William Wyatt died in 1580, and William, as I think, his son, had issue William, Roger, John, Thomas, Nicolas, Harry, who died in 1607, and Anne, wife of John Acock. The family in this place ended in a female (wife of Edward Swift), who ended her days in 1769, in the mansion formerly belonging to the Wyatts, built in the style of those houses that were erected in the days of king James I. or Charles I. of half timbered and plastered walls, late the property of Martyn Wood, now of Joseph Wadams, gent.

Robert Wyatt owned a messuage and lands in Nether Stonall, which formerly belonged to the abbey of Osney (most likely conveyed to him by Rowland Fryth, and Peter Alport, esqrs.), and paid a crown-rent of 4s. 4d. : these he passed to Rowland Ridding, in the 8th year of the reign of James I. with a messuage and lands in which Nicolas Wyatt then lived, and to which purchase he is witness, and which, in the 10th year of the reign of James I. were farther confirmed to Ridding, with a messuage held by Nicolas Wyatt.

William Wyatt, in the 13th year of the reign of James I. was concerned in a deed passing lands from Richard Sylvester, of Over Stonall, to Rowland Ridding; and from John Hunt, of Nether Stonall, to the same Rowland, 19 James I. Ralph, whom I take to be brother to this William, was of Lynne, in which he purchased an estate of John Best, and Elizabeth his wife, which afore time was the property of William Milner. Besides other issue, he had Mary, wife of James Whitehall, who, in 1662, sold land called the Naze to John Jennines, of Nether-Stonall, which Ralph Wyatt, in the 24th year of the reign of Charles I. bought of J. Best, of Fotherley. The said James and Mary Whitehall, with John Brown, of Fotherley, gent. (14 Charles II.) sold other lands to Simon Wigan; in 1664,

they fold lands to the same John Brown, gent. I find a Mary Wyatt, who, on July 26, 1656, bought land called the Nate, (near that so named of Ralph Wyatt's, and Alice his wife) of John Best, and Elizabeth his wife, to which is evidence William, (as I suppose) her son, who then residing at Lichfield, in 1654, fold to Edward, his brother, of Nether Stonall, the messuage in which Edward lived, with a croft, a moor, ten acres in Leet-field and Chapel-field, the Flatts near Edward Fryth's land, the Sharps, High-ashe, land called the Birmingham-gate, in Middle-field, towards Heath-field hedge, with land in Hook-field. Possession was given by Henry Fryth, gent. attorney for William Wyatt, and Elizabeth his wife, of which were evidences John Adcock, Rowland Serjeant, and William Stanley. The same year a fine was passed at Westminster before Oliver St. John, Edward Atkyns, Matthew Hale, and Hugh Wyndham, Justices, by Edward Wyatt, Rowland Serjeant, and Margaret, wife of William Malpafs, plaintiffs; and by William Wyatt, Elizabeth, his wife, John Colyere, and Jane his wife, Nicolas Parker, and Joan his wife, John Manley, and Anne his wife, deforciant; of two messuages, one cottage, two gardens, fifty-four acres of land and common pasture in Nether Stonall, Over Stonall, and Aldrich; this fine Edward discharged to Thomas Wilbraham, sheriff of Staffordshire, May 29, 1655. Also we find, that William Wyatt, and Elizabeth, his wife, of Lichfield, in the reign of Charles I. fold to Edward Quebb-meadow in Nether Stonall, lands in Lee-field, Hook-field, on Perry-hill, near William Wyatt's and Thomas Dickenfon's, which were purchased by William, the father of William and Edward, for which was paid a crown-rent of 1s. 7d.; Carters field in Over Stonall, lying between Rowland Edjials, Rowland and John Riddings, eastwards of Thornes and Lynn, heretofore bought of Richard Sylvester, gent. by William Wyatt,

Wyatt, the elder, which paid a crown rent of 8d. Long meadow, and Moor, in Footherley, near Roger Sylvester's, then held by Elizabeth Gibbons, widow; land then held by Sybil Fletcher, widow, called Riddings, and in Leet-field, Hook-field, Ramsted Moor, between Mary Wyatt's and John Banks, in the Heath-field, on the Cross pits, and near Stanleys, the Flatts near Stanley's, paying 6d. crown-rent; witnesses William and Mary Thornton, Edward Hollingham, and others.

James Whitehall, and Mary his wife, in the 18th year of the reign of Charles II. with Rowland Greenall, Sarah his wife, and Robert Greenall, passed a fine to Samuel Brown, gent. to confirm to him a messuage and twenty-one acres of land in Footherley, before Orlando Bridgman, Thomas Tyrrel, Samuel Brown, and John Archer, justices at Westminster.

Edward Wyatt, brother to William, of Lichfield, had, besides other issue, two sons, William, and Nicolas. William, in 1675, was concerned with John Thornton, of Nether Stonall, in selling lands in the Heath field, and the Stony acres; and with John Jobbern in passing away land in the same field; in 1680, he also signed the title made by his father, disposing of some property in Nether Stonall to John Wadams. Edward, their father in 1667, paid a quarterly assessment to the royal aid of 2s. 7d. at which time the widow Wyatt, of Over Stonall, paid to the same. Nicolas had issue, by Mary Hunt, of Nether Stonall, William, and other children. In 1687, he was concerned with Thomas and James Huniborn, and John Jackson, in a deed passing lands to John Wadams; and, in 1692, was one of the assessors to the poll-tax, to which William, his son, and his wife, also Sarah Wyatt, widow, of Footherly, paid. Nicolas, son of Nicolas, in 1695, married Sarah, daughter of William Clare, of Tipton, gent. a family long settled there, of good rank;

rank. Upon this, Sarah Clare, his wife, he settled a messuage, gardens, the Flatts, land in Chapel-fields, and in three other fields in or near Stonall; a meadow, with Greenall's meadow, Hook-clofe, Carters-clofe, Long-moors, with other lands; to which settlement were evidences William Clare, senior, of Tipton, William Clare, junior, and Moses Byrd, of West Bromwich; also trustee to it. This Nicolas, in 1721, was one of the principal men of this parish, that empowered John Brown, gent. to recover from Chancery the legacy of Grenada Brown, gentlewoman. This Nicolas and Sarah had issue Joseph, and I think another son, and two daughters; for, in 1724, October 7, Nicolas and Sarah Wyatt, by deed, passed over to Joseph, their son, their estate at Nether Stonall, paying legacies on their decease to his sister, or sister-in-law, then wife of Henry Wollaton, of Hedgeford, near Cannoc; and to his sister, Sarah, wife of Edward Swift, living in July, 1770; Sarah, his wife, died in 1769.

Joseph Wyatt, in 1728, passed Greenall's meadow, a moor in Nether Stonall, and Carters-field clofe, in Over Stonall, to Michael Wale, of Lichfield. In right of Nicolas, his father, he possessed lands called the Twenty-acres, in Nether Stonall, and land adjoining to Quebb-meadows. In 1732, he sold to Joshua Wafforn, of Stonely, gent. a messuage at Nether-stonall, gardens, the enclosed Flatts in Chapel-field, with the Sharp-acres in the same, a meadow near the house, Greenalls, Hook-clofes, Flatts, Flatt-heads, in Middle-field, Long-moors, Carters-field, Croffen-pits, land in Heath-field, ten acres enclosed in Chapel-field, in the tenure of Nicolas Wyatt, for the term of a thousand years, paying a pepper-corn yearly; and that he might make an end of what his ancestors had possessed in part before the reign of Elizabeth; in 1734, he sold to Joseph Wadams,

Wadams, gent. nine closes called the Flatts, also Pit-close, Hill-close, Chapel-yard-close, Hook-close, lying near the lands of Henry Dolphyn and Thomas Dickenfon, gent. Carter-field-close in Over Stonall, other lands lying to Joseph Parker's of Lichfield, and Thomas Dickenfon's, gent. two closes called the Long-moors, in Fotherley, with other fields lying to Thomas Stanley's, ——— Cooper's, Joseph Wadams, and Richard Fletcher's, gents. which paid 4s. 3d. yearly to the lord of the fee. Notwithstanding his wasting all the family estates, he afterwards recovered himself greatly, living at some distance from Shenstone, and died in the present reign; leaving his second wife a widow, and withal a handsome fortune to Sarah Swift, his sister, for her life, and to her sons, Joseph Swift, of the Boffes, John, of Lynne, with their sisters.

The Adcocks had two good houses in this hamlet, but, as they have all left it, I intend saying something of the family in my account of Lynne, or Lyndon, where the principal heir resides.

In this hamlet of Nether Stonall, we meet with a family of good account, named *Wadams*. Whence they came into the county of Stafford I could not learn, but find they had possessions at Longdon, near Lichfield, in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. for then was living there Richard Wadams, who had Richard, that purchased lands of Richard Hanley, and others, at Longdon; the last-mentioned Richard Wadams had issue John, who, in 1646, was executor to Rowland Ridding, of Nether Stonall, and in that capacity made a dividend of the effects, a third part of which was paid to Catharine, widow of Rowland Greenall, of Shenstone, who had also a claim to a share of a messuage, a croft, and nine acres of land lying in the Nether-field in Lower Stonall, then held by Rowland Hunt. In

1648,

1648, John Wadams releafed to Henry Hunt, of this place, the tythes of lands in the Chapel-fields enclosed by Rowland Hunt; to which releafe were evidences Thomas Rugeley, esq. Thomas Bennet, and Rowland Hunt. In 1655 he made an exchange of lands in Hook-field, and on Perry-hill, lying between the land of Edward Fryth, esq. and Mary Wyatt; in 1667, he paid to the affeffment for the royal aid, at which time lived Richard Wadams, of Longdon, who had feveral eftates in that place, and at Bradley-fields.

In 1699-70, John Wadams, of Longdon, Mary his wife, and John their fon, joined in purchafing and alfo exchanging lands in Nether Stonall, and Chapel-fields, with Edward Wyatt, and William his fon. In 1671, John Wadams, of Nether Stonall, and Catharine his wife, purchafed other lands of the Adcocks. In 1672, John Wadams, of Longdon, bought the Pear-tree crofts, and the Abbey butts, with other fields there, of William Slater and Richard Marshall; alfo, three years after, he, with John his fon paffed away lands in the Hook-field, in Nether Stonall, lying between the property of John Brown, gent. Rowland Reading, and Edward Wyatt; alfo in the Middle field, lying between that of Abraham Jordan, and William Hunt; to the deed are evidence Thomas and John Dickenfon. In 1678, John Wadams, of Lower Stonall, purchafed fields named the Upper-ends, others lying near the Pitchley-fields, with part of the Gorfty-moors of John Banks; Elizabeth his wife, Edward, and Sarah, their children, all of Upper Stonall, feizine of which was given by John Brown, gent. William Stone, and Henry Farnel. About the fame time he was concerned in the paffing away of lands, called the Stony-acres, in or near the Heath-field, by John and Ann Thornton, of Lower-Stonall. In 1686, he bought lands in the Hurft-fields, in Lyndon, with other fields
lying

lying towards those of Humphry Persehouse, gent. and William Botham; also others lying towards the estates of Anne Brandreth, widow, Humphry Persehouse, John Bulkley, of Little Aston, and Margery, wife of Joseph, son of John Bulkley. In 1692, we find John Wadams, of Nether Stonall, paid towards the poll tax; to Joseph, son of Joseph Wadams, and father of the present Joseph, an uncle left the mansion and lands lying in this hamlet. In 1725, Catharine Wadams paid eleven shillings for the use of the Pendrels heirs, who had such crown rents settled upon them by king Charles II. for their endeavours to preserve him after the battle at Worcester. In 1730-1 Joseph Wadams paid the same sum, and most likely the present possessor pays the same.

In 1726, Joseph Wadams, of Stonall, son of Thomas, of Longdon, married Anne, daughter of John Smallwood, of Great Barre, to whom were settled as trustees John Stokes, of Dippings in Tettenhall, and William Adcock, of Nether Stonall, and upon her he settled the messuage here, lands named the Flatts, Grosley Pit pieces, Home Riddings, Quebb Meadows, the Moors, and the Chapel Hill pieces. By this Anne Smallwood he had issue one son, Joseph, and three daughters. This last mentioned Joseph rebuilt the family house at Stonall. In 1758, he purchased lands and a mansion adjoining of Martyn Wood, of Shenstone, gent. and, in 1760, the estate near him, which had been long in the family of the Adcocks, but lately in Ambrose Tibbats, of Bilstone. This Joseph Wadams married first ———, daughter of John Cook, and secondly, ———, daughter of ——— Cox, of the Gosses near Bell Broughton, but hath no issue.

The several families of Sedgewick, Powell, Offley, and Stokes, had estates in Nether Stonall, but little is said of them farther than has been already observed.

Greenfbury, or Greenfberry Hill, in this hamlet, is a delightful fituation, facing Druid's Heath, at a good diftance from the road leading from Sutton Colefield to Stafford. It hath only one farm houfe, in the tenure of John Rawlins (fon of Francis, who held it), whose family came from a place near Stafford caſtle, which yet bears the name of Rawlins's pieces. The farm with the Peatmore and part of the Boſſes is rated at 200l. yearly, but is the eſtate of William Tenant, eſq. lord of the manor.

L Y N N E, or L Y N D O N.

The hamlet of Lynne is one continued road from Upper Stonall to Shenſtone village, extending itſelf full two miles, but hath not more than a dozen houſes. It is bounded by Shenſtone, Footherley, Nether Stonall, Over Stonall, Cheſterfield, and the Aſh Crofts.

There were two families, named, as I conjecture, from this place, fettled here, or at Allerſchal (Aldershaw), in the neighbourhood, as appears by two deeds in my poſſeſſion, one of Adam de Lynn or Lynde, dated 1311, and the other in 1315, 8 Edward II. of John Fitz Nicolas de la Lynde.

Lynne Hall was, unqueſtionably, the chief manſion in this hamlet. What figure it formerly made is hard to ſay, but
what

what remains of it at present is mean enough, and stands upon little ground, exclusive of the barns and other outbuildings in the hands of a tenant, late John, now James Moseley, his son.

The first family that I find possessors of Lynne Hall, was that of the *Stanleys*, and, as I think, in the reign of king Henry VIII. About the time of James I. or Charles I. it was alienated with other estates of considerable value, to the Erpes, by Thomas Stanley, esq. of Aldersey Hall, in Cheshire, father, or grandfather of Thomas Stanley, who was created a baronet by king Charles II. June 25, 1660.

Of the *Erpes* the first we meet with possessed of Lynne Hall was Francis, in the reign of James I. or Charles I. who had issue a son of the same name, a busy man in the troubles in behalf of the Parliamentarians. In the 11th year of the reign of king Charles II. he purchased the peal woods and coal pit leafows in Wyrley Parva, of Thomas Fowke, esq. and Ferrars Fowke, his son, with other lands there adjoining; and at that time, or soon after, he purchased a fourth part of the manor of Wall, with other estates and tenements therein; as also at Shenstone, in Pipe, Hamerwick, Aldershaw, and Lichfield, all in the county of Stafford, with several woods and coppices, two pieces called the Muckleys lying in Pipe and Wall; two pieces in Hamerwick, called the Lady Hayes, Wall meadows in Wall, and lands in Pipe near it, with other premises in Shenstone, Pipe, and Wall; the pieces named the White Leafows near Wall, but in the parish of Shenstone, but then under lease from the sub-chancellor and vicars choral of Lichfield for more than sixty years from the year 1646; a burgage tenure in the Bridge-street in the same city, a messuage in Bacon-street, with crofts and barns, a moor called Taverner's moor, a meadow called Alefmore, fe-

veral flats and parcels of field ground in the county of Lichfield, granted July 20, 1640. Also, soon after, three acres in Monkfield, two acres in Smythfield, and one land in Hungerfield, in Lichfield field. In 1644 the said Francis Erpe*, of Lynne Hall, gent. was chosen by col. Chadwick, capt. Leiceſter Barbour, William Bendy, ——— Crompton, ——— Gregg, capt. Henry Stone, &c. part of the committee at Stafford, on their ſide, one of the two aſſeſſors of Edward Stamford, eſq. of Perry Barre, with Thomas Jordan, of Perry, to ſet the lands to the beſt advantage, and pay Dorothy, wife of the ſaid Edward Stamford, the fifths, alſo to allot her Perry-hall, and two cloſes called Pale cloſe, and Bromes leaſow, at an appointed rent, her huſband being a delinquent, and in arms againſt the parliament, ſhe on the one hand engaging to ſecure Francis Erpe from the Royaliſts, and the committee to protect Thomas Jordan, and to pay weekly aſſeſſments for what ſhe keeps in her hands. In 1667, ——— Erpe, of Lynne, paid 3s. 7d. ob. to the aſſeſſment for the royal aid, for one quarter; but this perſon ſeems to have been one of his ſons. In 1646, the abovementioned Francis Erpe, the active governor of Ruſſhal houſe againſt the king, Robert Tutbury, and Gabriel Parkhurſt, reſided in Dudley caſtle after its ſurrender. Francis Erpe, by Lettice his wife, had iſſue John, William, Henry (who died in 1638), Richard, Thomas, and Francis; alſo daughters.

Lyndon Hall, and the eſtates of the Erpe family, were ſold in parts about the reign of Charles II. and the hall was held by various tenants, if not ſometime by the next purchaſer, as by one Walkland, in whoſe time of holding it Shenſtone church was new pewed, as I have ſeen in a MS, and received by tra-

* MSS notes of the Staffordſhire committee penes J. Burnes de Alderſhaw.
dition.

dition. Next by —— Nock, after him by Richard Baldwyn, or William Wyvil, but I cannot say which was the first. Of the latter we have an account, that he was a person of circumstances, having an estate of sixty or seventy pounds yearly; that he came from that part of the Peak in Derbyshire that lyeth towards Leek; but being inadvertently the death of a boy, this accident so exceedingly injured and involved him, that he spent most of that fortune. I should have observed, that he lived sometime at Shenstone hall. His sons were Andrew, William, and James; from these are descended several families of the name, in the neighbourhood of Shenstone and Sutton Colefield.

Lettice Erpe, widow of Francis, died at Lynne, October 28, 1669, by which we may nearly ascertain the time of seating the church, the pews, in all probability, being torn in pieces during the ravages of the civil war.

I have before said, that the Erpes sold their estates in parts; but the purchaser of Lynne hall was Humphry Persehouse, son of John Persehouse, gent. descended of John Persehouse, of Walihall, who, in 1583, was, by the queen's herald at arms, declared by sound of trumpet incapable of bearing the coat of arms he had usurped, and orders were given at the same time by the Somerset herald, and others, at Lichfield, to the queen's subjects, that as they tendered her displeasure they should forbear giving him the title or addition of *esquire* or *gentleman*.

Humphry Persehouse left Lynne hall and lands here to —— Lydiatt, his mistress, and to his son by her, for their lives. These possessions that John George Lydiatt sold to William, son of the aforesaid Humphry.

We have some farther account of this family from a noted antiquary *, who says, near Rushall, at a place called Reynolds

* Sir S. Degge.

hall, is the feat of one John Persehouse, whose father was a practitioner of the law, or his grandfather, and lived in good repute. His son adhered to the king, Charles I. in the late war, and was forced to a composition with the parliament, at the rate of 1191. by the name of John Pierhouse, of Reynolds haw, or hall, Walsai; the said John was prebend and vicar of Weston Pen, and Ross. The family had this feat in marriage with one of the daughters and coheirs of — Walker, of Reynolds hall, whose ancestor married the daughter and heir of Reynolds, in whose name and family it had for some time continued.

Walker's arms, to which the family of the Persehouse had claim, were; Argent, a chevron, Sable, charged with two bezants, Or, a crescent of the first, between three crescents of the second.

A pedigree of the Persehouse family is in my hands.

John Persehouse, of Reynolds hall, the lawyer, had issue Richard, who, by Frances, daughter of Humphry Wyrley, esq. had issue John (living in the reign of king Charles II), a very loyal person to king Charles I; he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Chester, esq. and had issue John, aged seven in 1663. Him I take to have been the father or elder brother of Humphry, who bought Lynne hall. It seems clear that some of the family lived at this place; for, the register mentions the interment of Granada Persehouse, of Lynne, June 22, 1655.

William, son of Humphry, had issue William, of Reynolds hall, in the commission of the peace, who died in March, 1734, leaving Richard*, and two daughters, by — his wife, daughter of — Parker, gent. He had a second wife, —, daughter of — Townshend, but find no issue by her.

One of the daughters married to John Douglas, D.D. chaplain in ordinary to the king, and canon of Windsor; the other to a clergyman of Herefordshire.

* Who married December 18, 1754, to Miss Rachel Riley.

Richard

Richard Persehouse, esq. was left a minor. In 1762, he was one of the three persons pricked down for sheriff for the county of Stafford, but was not nominated or confirmed by the king. He became heir to ——— Parker, of Bloxwich, gent. his mother's brother. He married two wives, both daughters of ——— Ryley, of Worcester; by the first he had several children, who all died infants, but none by the latter. He, himself, had a tender constitution, and a thin habit of body which he greatly impaired also by his excesses, all which brought on a fever that carried him off in December, 1771, being not more than forty years old. By will he provided for his widow, but left the chief part of his estates at Reynolds hall, Walsall, in Rushall, with a moiety of the tythes of the last parish in Lynne, &c. to Morton Walhouse, son of ——— Walhouse, esq. of Hatherton on Cannoc, by Frances, sister of Sir Edward Lyttelton, of Pillaton, baronet.

In order to finish what I have to say of Lynne hall, I shall add, that I find one James Erpe, of Lichfield, in the reign of Henry VIII. whose son James married, in 1598, to Catharine Sherwood, of that city; and Henry to Alice Seale, in 1605, at Stow church, one of which persons I look upon to be father of Francis, who settled in Shenstone, and there purchased estates.

Pouke House, a messuage so named, formerly the estate of ——— Crowther, was the property of John Molefley, late of Lynne hall, and is in James his son at present: but of this tenement and land heretofore appertaining to it, I observe nothing worth note but the name.

Barnwalls, and *Barnwoods*, are lands so termed in this hamlet, which, as far as I can learn, went, as I have described other estates of the Rugeleys, to the Brandreths, and so to the family of the Hills, of Shenstone park, of which Noel Hill, esq. of Terne, is the present owner, in whom also remain the farms
held

in part by John, James, and Thomas Moseley, who hath erected a neat farm house adjoining to the hall aforesaid, and in the Carrington family, held in 1772 by Francis Walters.

Though notice is already taken of the *Rudgings* or *Riddings*, yet finding they were people of considerable property in Lynne, I could hardly pass through this hamlet without adding a word or two more of the family.

It seems then, that they began to settle here in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. but little mention is made of them till 1470, when they were purchasers of lands, and continued in a thriving situation till the troubles of king Charles I. which ruined them as well as thousands more. Rowland Ridding, in the reign of James I. was of the same stock with James Ridding, who died here in 1581, by William his son. This Rowland purchased lands in fee farm lying at Nether Stonall, and elsewhere, of Rowland Fryth and Peter Alport, esqrs. which they, in the third year of the reign of James I. had received by grant from the crown; also in the thirteenth year of the reign of James I. other lands of Richard Sylvester, in Lynne, to which are witnesses Laurence Serjeant, &c. In the 19th year of the reign of James I. he, for 70l. bought of Rowland Greenhill of the Ashcrofts a messuage, croft, and nineteen acres of land lying near the land of Thomas Stanley, esq. to be held of the king in chief, as of the honour of East Greenwich. In the same reign, he had, from John Hunt, the Ham or Lome Riddings, in three parts, late part of the Mofs manor, before belonging to the abbey of Oseney. I conclude he died about the year 1646, because at that time his executor ——— Wadams, of Nether Stonall, paid part of her fortune to Catharine, his daughter, wife of Rowland Greenhill, of Shentone. By Anne his wife he had issue John Ridding, Mary, and Catharine, which
Mary,

Mary, in 1633, purchased a messuage and lands of William Bruerton. An observer of the difficult times of king Charles I. during the Civil War said, especially of this family, "The Ruddings were a good family at Lyndon, by their profession Quakers, and in the troubles suffered greatly, being twice in a very few days plundered of their cattle and provisions; and, farther, obliged to advance considerable sums of money on the propositions of parliament, besides the weekly assessments enforced by the committee residing at Stafford, and their troops. The rough lands or fields, yet so named, were then covered over with shrubs and thickets, in a retired part of which these injured people had made conveniences for their horses and other cattle. The plunderers, then called the Puritans and Reformers of the times, after frequently using these people as aforesaid, assured them of security for the future, against all farther abuses, and engaged that they may bring home their cattle, but soon after seized both waggons and horses." Such was the infelicity of those times, when the most inoffensive people were not in safety as to their persons, nor secure of their food even for an hour.

In the year 1767, William and Nicolas, of Lynne; two of the name of Thomas, of Stonall; William and Edward Rudding; all housekeepers, paid to the assessment for the royal aid, so often expressed. The whole line is now at an end, or reduced to one poor family, resident in either of the Stonalls or Lyndon; such strange vicissitudes does this life afford. The house chiefly of their abode in Lynne I take to have been that in the tenure of Thomas Adcock (1773), but do not positively affirm it.

This mansion is at present a small farm-house, built but a few years since, in other respects convenient enough, having good barns and out-houses, formerly, as I suppose, the property of the Ruddings, next of the Sylvesters, and afterwards of the

Dolphyns, of the Mofle; John Dolphyn being the present owner, to which is annexed land of 200l. yearly value, or rentouts, which, however, hath been improved, to the great advantage of the owner and tenant.

The Adcocks have been long fettled at Nether Stonall and Lynne; in 1584 died Robert Adcock of this parish; Anne, his wife, in 1595; they seem to have had issue Thomas, John, Anne, Alice, and Mary, who all died before the year 1601. John, of Lyndon, son, as I think, to one of these sons, married Mary, daughter of — Wyatt, in 1602, and in 1602 John their son was born; John, the father, or one of the same name, in the eighth year of the reign of James I. was witness to the seisin of lands passed to Rowland Ridding by Rowland Fryth and Peter Alport, esqrs. and was a person of considerable property; in 1652, he was executor to Henry Hunt, gent. John Adcock, living in the troublesome times, was greatly harassed; the family and tradition say, that his fortune was much lessened, and his dependants much abused both by friends and enemies. Not to aggravate circumstances of ill usage from his neighbours, two accounts are here given relating to his hardships in the Civil War, which will at the same instant exemplify the conduct of the parliament committees and agents. Robert Tuthill, governor of Rushall-hall garrison for the parliament in 1644-5, applied to the committee at Stafford* for some farther support for his men, affirming that the weekly assignments were not sufficient, upon which the committee, Thomas Crompton, — Jolliffe, — Swynfen, Edward Broughton, — Gregg, Thomas Pudsey, William Bendy, Henry Stone, John Simcox, Leicester Barbour, Edward Leigh,

* Minutes of the Committee.

Ph. Jackson, Jos. Whitehall, passed an order to collect 90*l*. immediately, and to engage the public faith for it; from each person subscribed, the twentieth of their personal estates, and the fifth of their land rents were exacted, *viz.* from Humphry Wyrley, of Hampstead, esq. 20*l*. from John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, 10*l*. from John Harrison, of Aldrich, 6*l*. from Thomas Harrison, 4*l*. from Richard Stone, of Park-street, Walfall, 12*l*. T. Osborn, 10*l*. John Cooper, of the Hill, both in Walfall, 10*l*. from John Anintyn, of Wall, 20*l*.

The following is a true copy of a receipt to John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, for advancing money to the parliament :

“ Forasmuch as John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, hath advanced upon the propositions of parliament the sum of eight pounds, and hath paid the same into the receipt of this garrison of Rushal howse, theis are therefore to command and charge all officers and soldiers under my command; and to request all other the forces for king and parliament, not to molest, vex, trouble, or offer any violence to the said John Adcock, nor to pillage, plunder, or meddle with any of his goods or chattels; he, the said John, still continuing a friend to king and parliament, and not doing, or consenting to the doinge of any thing prejudicial to the kingdom and state. Given under my hand at the garrison of Rushal howse, for king and parliament, this nyynth day of May, 1645. Robert Tuthill.”

John Adcock, born in 1602, died in 1654, or thereabouts, for then his will bears date; he left issue John, Alexander, and Anne, wife of H. Webbe, of Hamerwich, gent

John, in 1667, paid to the royal aid, and, in the reign of king Charles II. purchased of Alexander Ward that estate in Stonall which was aforetime the property of Thomas Adcock. In 1669 he was concerned in an exchange of lands with H. Ward

Wyatt and John Wadams. In 1671 he sold lands to the said Wadams. He had issue, as I think, John, Alexander, and others. Alexander, in 1674, and other years, paid 13s. 6d. crown rent for land in his possession, as part of the manor of the Mofs, of old time belonging to the abbey of Osney. He also purchased an estate in Nether Stonall, of Richard Offley, of Brynton, Staffordshire, in 1687. In 1692 he is mentioned as paying to the poll-tax, a matter, that though given by the parliament in zeal to king William III. was thought a great hardship on the subjects of a free country, and therefore discontinued. "By this bill * all persons (except such as received alms of the parish) were to pay twelve-pence quarterly for one year; all tradesmen and artificers having an estate of the clear yearly value of 300l. and upwards, ten shillings; all gentlemen, or reputed gentlemen, having an estate of 300l. or more; as also clergymen and teachers who had any ecclesiastical benefice or contribution to the value of 80l. *per annum*, or upwards, 20s.; every lord of parliament, either spiritual or temporal, the sum of 10l.; and all persons who should refuse to take the oaths to their majesties double the sums charged by the respective heads.

Alexander Adcock lived to the age of 71, dying in 1721. Besides lands, that he acquired by purchase or otherwise, he had from his father the Church acres in Chapel field, the Flatts on Chapel hill, lands near Unnamed, Hogs hill, part of the High ashes, and Heathfield, part of the Church fields near Cock heaths. In 1677 he married Jane, daughter of William Tomkys, of Lichfield, gent. with whom, besides a handsome fortune, he had lands in Great Wyrley; trustees were Thomas Ward, of Shensstone, and Thomas Dickenson, senior; John Ad-

* Poll-tax bill.

cock, the father, likewise at this time gave them in marriage a messuage and close adjoining, with a flatt, several acres of arable land, a messuage lately bought of John Brown, of Thornes, gent. Green crofts, bought of Thomas Astley ; Commons crofts, bought of John Best, of Hintz ; pieces in the Chapel field, the Crofs pits, and lands bought of Alexander Ward, gent. ditto in the Heath field, Middle field, and at the Hook pits, a piece exchanged with Lydia Malkyn, land on the Chapel hill, late Alexander Ward's, and the Ash lands ; to which were evidences William and Thomas Tomkys, and Isaac Hinckley. By this Jane Tomkys, who died in 1729, he had issue William, who died in 1731, aged 55 ; Thomas, born in 1784 ; John ; and Elizabeth, wife of George Parker, of Whittington.

John, eldest brother of Alexander, in 1692, paid to the poll-tax ; in 1676 married Ruth, daughter of — Vaughton, of Tamworth, upon whom he settled in marriage a mansion, and about fifty acres of land, called the Cock heaths, part of Queb meadows, lands in Heath field, Chapel fields, Hook-field, and Middle fields ; witness Fr. Wolverstan, Alexander Ward, Alexander Adcock, J. Botte. By this Ruth, who died in 1687, he had issue John, and Jonathan. John married Ann Shipton, of Tamworth, who founded the hospital at London, named by him Guy's hospital, by her he had issue John, and Jonathan, and, as I think, Edward, and others, by a second venture. Edward, of the Ashcrofts, married Elizabeth, widow of Fr Rawlins, of Greenberry hill (son of John of Lyndon, who came from Rawlins, near Stafford), who had issue Joshua, John, James, of Upper Stonall, Francis, and daughters. John, now of Greenberry hill, married Dorothy, daughter of — Lea, and hath children. By this Elizabeth Smyth, of Wyrley, widow of Fr. Rawlins,

Rawlins, he left issue Edward, now of the Ashcrofts, William Mary, wife of Henry Curzon, of Hill, near Sutton Colefield.

John Adcock had a tolerable good estate in Lynn and Nether Stonall, though the family was visibly on the decline; in 1721 he married Catharine, daughter of —— Robinson, sister of Michael of Oldwood, Staffordshire, on whom he settled a mansion at Nether Stonall, the Stoney acres, Coat Leafows, a meadow near, the three Flatts, Queb meadow, Twenty acre pieces, and two meadows adjoining; he died in 1746, leaving John, Jonathan, who died single, 1772, Elias, who also died unmarried, in London, and three daughters; 1. Mary, wife of Walter Bydulph, of Barton under Needwood, esq. uncle to Sir Theophilus Bydulph, baronet, late of Elmhurst, Staffordshire by whom she hath issue, 2. Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Swift, of the Boffes; 3. Catharine, unmarried.

John was bred an attorney, and was steward to John Offley, esq. of Whichmore, Staffordshire, member of parliament for East Retford, Nottinghamshire. He married Eleanor, daughter of —— Wright, and hath children. In 1756, March 26, he and Jonathan his uncle, the executors to John deceased, sold the estate at Stonall, and the family mansion, to Ambrose Tibbats, of Bilstone, by which means one of the principal houses of the name of Adcock ceased here. In 1760 the same estate was passed over to Joseph Wadams.

William Adcock, eldest son of Alexander, married Dorothy Lea, of Shenstone village, in 1723; he is mentioned in some writings to have gone before Henry Dolphyn, clerk of the peace, and there to have taken the oaths to king George I. engaging at the same time to register his estate, and name, which was generally done through the kingdom; for the administering of which oaths, registering, and receipts, the said Henry Dolphyn exacted

exactd from the whole country a considerable sum of money. The reason for proceeding in this manner in regard to the oaths, &c. was on account of the plot in favour of the Pretender, for which — Howard, duke of Norfolk, Charles Boyle, earl of Orrery, lord North and Grey, bishop Atterbury, and others, were sent to the Tower ; for which the bishop was banished, and Christopher Layer, counsellor at law, executed. This William Adcock possessed a part of the land that made the manor of the Moss, belonging of old time to South Osney abbey, as appears by an account of the persons who owned them, and who paid the Crown rents yearly for the use of the Pendrels, in the year 1731, of which this William was one ; he died the next year, leaving issue Thomas, William, unmarried (1773), Elizabeth, wife of — Simkin, of Swinfen ; and Dorothy, wife of John Biddle, or Biddulph, of Nether Whitacre, late of Fotherley ; both which have children.

Thomas Adcock, (1773), of Lynne, has a pretty estate in that hamlet and Nether Stonall, to which is annexed a mansion house that hath long appertained to the younger branch of this family ; by industry he hath added to his circumstances, and is a considerable tenant upon an estate belonging to John Dolphyn. This Thomas married — Symkin, sister of — Symkin, of Landwood, near Wyrley ; she died, but left issue. In the same farm, and near the house in the land of — Rydding, was a burial-ground of the Quakers ; it is to this day designedly marked out in the circuit of it by large trees, to prevent its being by mistake ploughed up, and as a respectful memorial. To the same John Dolphyn belongs land formerly John Chatham's, afterwards William Stanley's (in the reign of king Charles II.), in the tenure of John Mosse, of the Woodhouses in Hammerwick,

merwick, till 1747; and since that date in the holding of Thomas Adcock, of Lyndon.

The Whitacres were large open fields, lying to the Sandhills in Upper Stonall, Westward of Lynne town about the fourth of a mile, and contains somewhat more than a mile in circuit, part of them have been long enclosed; and, in 1762, the great open fields, named Neotsfield, near Lynne, Brookfields, near the Cranbrook, and the Whitacres were enclosed by an agreement between the owners, William Tenant, Thomas Hill, John Dolphyn, and Richard Persehouse, esqrs. but at the sole expence of the tenants.

Nates, or Neotsfields, were (in the reign of king Charles I.), or a part of them, the lands of John Best and Elizabeth his wife, of Lynne, which, in 1656, they passed to Mary Wyatt, and which seemed aforetime to have been the property of William Milner, to Mary Wyatt; Henry Fryth, gent. gave seizin, in presence of Thomas Sylvester, Joseph Green, and others. Mary, daughter of the said Mary Wyatt (and Ralph), carried lands so named (being a part purchased of John Best by Ralf Wyatt himself, as the deed expresses), in marriage to James Whitehall; they, in 1662, sold a close called Nate to John Jennings, of Over Stonall. In the 16th year of the reign of Charles II. they sold another close called Neate, with other lands in Lynne, near Best's, to John Brown, of Footherley, gent. That year John Jennings, and Eleanor his wife, passed the Nate in their hands to Samuel Brown, of Footherley, gent.

January 29, 1678, John Barton and Dorothy his wife, of St. Saviour's Southwark, confirmed a deed passing land named the Nate, to Abraham Clifford Clifford, of Woburn, Bucks, for the use of Dorothy, wife of John Barton, and Henry Wigan, her son by Simon Wigan, of Lynne. John Barton, and Do-

rothy his wife, at the same time fold their moiety to the said Henry, who, in 1681, with his sisters, fold to Thomas and James Huniborn, and to John Jackson, of Sutton-Colefield, the Neotscrofts, the Half-nates, a meadow, a parcel of the Nate, and a house, all in Lynne; they again, in the third year of the reign of James II. passed them to John Wadams. In 1726, Thomas Wadams, of Longdon, and Sufannah his wife, settled them upon Joseph their son, then of Nether Stonall; and, as I conjecture, they remain in the possession of Joseph their son (1773).

Francis Erpe, of Lynne, had a tenement and land, either in part of the Whitacres, or adjoining to them, which afterwards came into the name of Bayley, who were settled here in the reign of James I. at which time lived John Bayley, of Lynne, who died in 1662; he had issue John, Abraham, and daughters. Either the last John, or one of his name, paid to the poll-tax in 1692; and had issue William and others. Benjamin Bayley, in the reign of George II. fold the aforesaid tenement and lands to — Clement, alderman of Lichfield, in whose family they lately were on his decease in the reign of George III. In this hamlet Joseph Bayley had a messuage and land, 1770, late Turner's, and heretofore — Moreton's, esq.

The *Serjeants* were people of some good property in this village and Thornes, at both of which they have resided; amongst other lands, they had the Wrenplecks and Wallongs. The first I meet with is Laurence Serjeant, who, in 1605, married Anne Adcock, and had issue Rowland, William, and others. Rowland, of Thornes, in 1654, was executor to John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, and died 1667, after he had paid his assessment to the royal aid; he left issue, Rowland Edward, and Job. Rowland had issue Job, born in 1695, who, in 1725, married

K k

Mary,

Mary, daughter of —— Vere. Another Job Serjeant, 1687, married Margaret Tilly, of a good family in this neighbourhood. They had, as I am told, William, who, in the reign of George I. or George II. sold the reliques of the family estate to Richard Passaw, of Nether Stonall, and Job, who died lately.

The *Bothams* had an estate here as early as queen Elizabeth. This family had their seat at Bothams Hall, in the High Peak of Derbyshire, whence a branch of them came to Michael Over, Derbyshire, and about king Charles the First's time purchased the ancient seat of the Burtons, of Lyndley or Lyndholme, in Loxley, near Uttoxeter. How the family came by lands in this place I cannot learn; but find John Botham often evidence to the grants of lands by Rowland Fryth and Peter Alport, particularly in the 8th year of the reign of James I. Rowland Botham, in the 22d year of the reign of Charles I. owned part of the Hurstfield in Lynne, and lands named the Bothams in Wood-end, afterwards the estate of Francis Priest, who, in 1687, sold them to Walter Fowler, gent. as did Abraham Griffin fields so named, near the Pleckmoors, both which, in 1713, were in the Adams's, of Fotherley. William Botham is mentioned of Lynne, 1685. His estate, in part, went by purchase to the Dolphyns; John Dolphyn, esq. had it 1773; a part is in John Cook, of Fotherley, or Adams's heirs, having fallen to them by purchase of James Adams: to whom also Abraham Griffyn sold a share left him by the will of John Sylvester.

Birchleys is an estate and mansion in Lynne, somewhat out of the road, and leaning towards Fotherley. It was formerly the residence of a younger son of the Coopers, of which family mention is made in Little Aston. This place is sometimes called Owl-hall, from its retired situation, and, with the farm belonging

ing to it, is in the tenure of George Botte. The Coopers had another farm here, formerly the possession of Thomas Handley.

The family of *Collins* are found in this parish as soon as the register begins, *viz.* 1579. They lived at Aston, Little Hay, Fotherley, and Lyndon, and are hardly to be distinguished; only of late years (in the reign of George I. and George II.), was Sampson Collins, of Lynne, who enjoyed an estate of the Hunts, and passed it to Thomas Barfoot of Shenstone village.

In the reign of king Charles II. lived here Thomas Barfoot, a clergyman, who had issue (1672) Thomas, and other children; he left Thomas an useful and active person, well remembered in the parish, by ———, daughter of ——— Hodgets; he left five daughters, coheirs; one of them only is married, to James Rawlins, of Penford in Upper Stonall; this farm is in the tenure of Edward Hoskyns, of Stonall.

John Browne, gent. of Thornes and Fotherley, was owner of a tenement and land here; this came by purchase to Daniel Stringer, whose nephew and heir, now living, wasted it in part, and then sold them to ——— Sylvester, and after to ——— Webb, of Hamerwick; John Swift holds them.

The Whitleys are the name of a messuage, croft, and lands, formerly the property of Rowland Ridding, and Thomas Ridding, his nephew, of Lynne. In the 19th year of the reign of James I. a part of the Whitleys were in Rowland Fryth, esq. and his heirs, and are described to lie on the Ickenild road.

The family of *Best* had possessions in Lynne, Fotherley, Stonall, and Hintz, some of which bear their name. John Best, in the 22d year of the reign of king Charles I. and Elizabeth his wife, sold lands to Roger Bulkeley, in Hurstfield, with a piece near Rowland Botham's, and lands late Francis Erpe's,

and other fields near the estate of Jane Brandreth, widow : that year, being then of Hintz, they disposed of a part of the Leet, or common fields, in Lynne, with fields in the Thornyhurst, near the rough Leafows, and Gibriddings, others near the Ravenscoate, a meadow held by John Collins, three pieces in the Hurstfields, between Thomas Riddings and Jane Brandreths, held by John Hervey and Henry Anson, of Lynne, who was to hold them under the chief lord of the fee by the usual customs ; witnessed by Edward Scott, Roger Bulkeley, and Roger Adams. In the 24th year of the reign of king Charles I. they sold land in Lynne to Raphael Wyatt, *viz.* a close of Springwood, and a meadow in this hamlet, lately purchased of William Milner. This John Best died before 1664, for then Elizabeth, his widow, sold a part of his estate to Robert Griffyn. John Best (perhaps his son), in the 17th year of the reign of Charles II. had lands left here unsold ; but before 1677 John Adcock and others had in possession the Commons croft, and what was unsold by his parents John and Elizabeth, who, towards the end of the reign of king Charles I. lived at Fotherley.

The Bulkeleys are lands in this place, so named of a family that owned them ; these came after to the Erpes, in part, and to John Wilcox, who married Dorcas Bulkeley, about the reign of queen Elizabeth or James I. Humphrey Bulkeley had them and other possessions. Erpe's came to the Persehouse line, as before described. These Bulkeleys derived themselves of the same family with those of Stoke, in Shropshire, and of those that were, in the reigns of Edward IV. and Henry VII. lords of Chedleton and Stanlaw, Staffordshire, and took the name of Stanlaw, originally of Eaton and Bulkeley, in Cheshire. What I find of them here is, that John, son of Humphry, in the 10th year of the reign of James I. had lands in Lynne, Hook-lane, and

and Aston, in this parish. Thomas and Roger were that year evidences to John Hunt's disposal of lands to R. Ridding. John, in the 22d year of the reign of Charles I. bought lands in Lynne of J. Best; in the 23d year of the reign of king Charles II. George Bulkeley was concerned in the sale of an estate by John Byrch, of Aston, to William Pretty, gent. John, and Joseph Bulkeley his son, of Aston, sold lands in the Hurstfields (Lynn), near the Bothams, in 1686. In the same reign, Roger, also the widow, and Thomas Bulkeley, paid to the royal aid in 1667.

Shepherds Hayes, in this village, were the possession of the Duttons, of Wall; after of Crowther; the late Edward Adcock, of the Ashcrofts, purchased them, and Edward his son enjoys them; they lie near the Ashcrofts; as do the Hobmoors, an estate belonging to the Moretons, now invested in Stephen Sympson, of Lichfield, attorney at law, or Charles, his son; in the tenure of Arthur Smyth.

In Lynne, half a mile from Shenstone, adjoining to the Ashcroft farm, are two well-timbered coppices belonging to Noel Hill, and John Dolphyn, esqrs.

Near them is a messuage and farm, formerly the estate of Edward Handley; after of Gilbert Walmfley, of Lichfield, esq. and of Robert Walmfley, esq. register of Lichfield, who married, 1736, to -----, daughter of ----- Aston, of Stow near that city, lately in the tenure of Nathaniel Curzon, now of his daughter, wife of ----- Spencer; this estate is in the heirs of the Walmfleys.

Hunibornes are lands probably so named from the former possessors, and inclosed by the Huniborne family, often spoken of in old writings. They were afterwards the property of ----- Barnes; next of Simon Wigan, from whom they came to Joseph Wadams, gent. of Nether Stonall.

Rake-

Rakemoors are rough pieces, or leafows, purchase d o Jo Jackson, of Chesterfield, lying between that village and Lynne; they were purchased, in 1731, by Richard Steel, Thomas Barfoot, John Lea, Francis Rawlins, and others, with money belonging to Stonall and Lynn, for the use of the poor of these two hamlets.

Bullmoors are a considerable quantity of land lying between Hill Town, Lynne, and Chesterfield, given to the poor of the whole parish, described in one of the church tables, as aforesaid.

Brandreth's pieces, in the district of Lynne, were the estate of Francis Erpe, in the reign of king Charles I. and went with those sold to the honourable and reverend Richard Hill, now (1773) in Noel Hill, of Terne, esq.

H I L L T O W N.

Hilton is so denominated from its situation on a rising ground, in the road leading from Walfall to Wall. Though called a town, it in no degree deserves the term; yet it seemed not improper to take notice of it, as the inhabitants of the Shenstone side of it lay claim to the donation of William Smyth, of London, to put out poor boys apprentice in their turn, and have enjoyed it. They call themselves, indeed, a part of Upper Stonall

Stonall hamlet, but with what justice appears not. The village lies on Cannoc wood, above the Crane brook, which is named in Lynne; I should therefore suppose it a part of Lynne, or of Chesterfield, near which it is situated, at the distance of half a mile. Three or four mean families make up the whole belonging to Shenstone, and these (if I mistake not) are chiefly tenants to John Dolphyn, of the Mofs, esq. Thomas Salt, of Hilton, in the reigns of George I. and George II. had a messuage, and Sandwell pieces, Welle pieces, or Wall lands, lands in Lynne, Carters-field, Cocks-piece, a messuage in the Well-piece, and an estate at Blythbury; his issue were Thomas, -----, wife of John Price, of Drakelow, Derbyshire; and Mary, wife of Thomas Dickenson, of Nether Stonall. Thomas had issue John, who lived some time at Blithbury, on his own estate; John left Thomas Salt, of London; and Samuel, late of Dudley. The Hilton and Lynne estates are sold.

C H E S T E R F I E L D.

Chesterfield is about two miles in circuit, reckoning the lands appertaining to it, being bounded by Shenstone village, the Ashcrofts, and part of Lynne lane, Lynne coppice, Crane brooke, Hilton (a manor purchased by the late Curfitor ----- Smith, lord of the manor of Shenstone), Wall, part of the
great

great road leading thence to Swynfen, and the road leading from Shenstone by Pindle-fields to Lichfield and Swynfen, though the village extends itself not more than a quarter of a mile, and has not more than ten families, on the way towards Lynne, the Ashcrofts, and Shenstone village, and lying upon the river sometimes named of the township, and frequently of the Bourne.

Chesterfield has an obvious derivation from the Roman *Castrum*, from the Saxon *Ceaſter*, and the old British *Caer*, of which we have many instances through the kingdom, and field. Hence we may collect that this place, probably to Shenstone church hill, was the line of encampment for the Roman forces generally stationed at Wall, close to it.

I should suppose that Chesterfield, or Campfield, was formerly a place of some consideration, and a manor separate from Shenstone, to which it is now annexed. It is mentioned as early as king Richard I. as a village, situate on the bank of the river Tame, which points out the antiquity of the place; as to its having inhabitants in king Richard the First's time, but as to lying on the Tame, it is a mistake; for, it lies on the Hamerwick water, at this village, bearing different names as afore-said; the said water, indeed, after a course of several miles, runs into the Tame.

In that reign a family of note, called *Cumberford*, owned this township, and Alan de Cumberford was lord of the manor, called, by Holinshed, Chesterforde. There was Alan de Cumberford in Henry the First's time. Alan de Cumberford (t. William I. or William II.) had issue Alan (t. Henry I.) of Wiggington, near Tamworth, and Chesterfield in Scertestan, or Shenstone; his sons were Roger and Richard; the latter had issue three daughters; 1. Agnes, wife of J. Shepey; 2. Anne, wife of
Alan

Alan Quilette, and Sybil of Richard Hopwas. I find another account says, there was an elder sister Margery, wife of Radulph Bonenghall or Bolehall, who had Richard, father of John, who had issue Alice, wife of John King, that died issueless. Richard Hopewas and Sybil had issue William, of whom John, father of William, who had Anne, heir to part of the Cumberland estates; she carried them to the Edensors, of which line was Thomas (1583), of Cumberland, who married Dorothy, daughter of Humphry Comberford, of that place, and had Christopher Ednesor, and others.

Ednesor's family arms were, Argent, 3 horse-shoes, Sable, between a fess, Gules.

Roger Cumberland, son of Alan, had a son William, who, by Alice his wife, had John that died without issue, and Richard, who, by Agnes his wife, had John, lord of Cumberland, and other estates, who, by Joan his wife, had William, father of John, to whom he married his ward Joan, daughter and heir of John Parles (in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV.), which Joan was a great heiress, lady of the manors of Shittle Hanger and Handsworth, Staffordshire, and others. They had issue Thomas, who, by Dorothy, daughter of Robert Fitzherbert, had issue Margaret, wife of William Stanley, and Humphry, whose wife was Dorothy, second daughter and coheir to John de Beaumont, lord of the manor of Wednesbury (of the blood royal of England and France), son of Henry, by Eleanor, daughter of John Sutton baron Dudley, of Dudley castle. Humphry had issue Thomas, Humphry, Mary, wife of Walter Harcourt, and Isabel of Gervase Rolleston; she died without issue. Thomas, lord of Cumberland and Wednesbury, by Dorothy, daughter of William Wyrley, had issue William, Edward, and Elizabeth, wife of William Stamford, esq. William married,

1. -----, reliēt of ----- Spencer, of Ratcliffe near London, but had no child by her; 2. Mary, daughter of William Skeffington, of Fisherwick, esq. by whom he had Humphry, Thomas, John, William, Francis, Richard, John, Henry, Anne, and Mary, wife of W. Holte, of Aston, ancestor to Sir Charles Holte, baronet, 1773. Thomas, father of William and Edward, died in the 40th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, seized of the manors of Wiggington, Cumberland, and Wednesbury; also of divers lands in Hopwayes, Cotton, Tamworth, and Tamehorne. Humphry, son of William Cumberland, married Mary, daughter of Robert Stamford, of Perry hall, esq. and had issue Humphry Thomas, Robert, William, Anne, Joan, and Dorothy.

I meet with a colonel Cumberland, of Cumberland, in the civil war; with William, who bought, in the reign of Charles I. part of Mancester, Warwickshire, of George Lewis, esq. also with William, who, in the 13th year of the reign of James I. purchased Bole-hall of William Anson, esq. To these I add, that Thomas Fitz Robert granted to Alan de Cumberland a virgate and half of land, which was Roger de Wynton's (I suppose in the reign of king Henry I.), to be holden of him and his heirs, by the service of a pound of pepper yearly, as evidenced by Robert Fitz Geoffry, Roger de Puignat, Robert, the chaplain, William Hales, Roger de Hardford, Godfrey de Brierley, a priest, and Nicolas de Lichfield; all knights. The deed is not dated.

Cumberfote bore two coats, 1. Gules, a talbot Argent.

2. Gules, on a cross engrailed, Or, 5 roses of the first.

We have given a genealogy of the family, but the township and manor of Chesterfield was alienated in a few generations. I have seen an original deed in the hands of the late Walter viscount Chetwynd, at Ingestre, secured by Walter, a noted antiquary,

tiquary, of this family, in which it is remarked, that in the reign of Edward II. or III. lived Sir William Bagot, of Hyde, and Sir Ralph, his brother, one of which owned this hamlet and manor of Chesterfield, at that time named in the parish of Shenstone, and sold it to Sir Robert de Grendon, of whom I intend to speak hereafter.

Two copies of deeds in my hands speak of Geoffry Fitz Walter de Cestrefield, granting lands to Nicolas Fitz Robert Goodwyn, of Alreshaw (Aldershaw, about half a mile off). And that Geoffry Lyly de Cestrefield granted and confirmed to Simon, son of William de Allershall, the lands he held of him, dated 1336, in the 9th year of the reign of king Edward III. The first hath no date.

In the centre of the village stands a large old mansion, which, as far as I can learn, hath always been looked upon as the principal one. It is in the style of structures not later than queen Elizabeth's days, low, full of timber, and standing on a large foundation, with a court or garden to the road. This mansion was long the residence of the *Allens*, of whom we know little with any degree of certainty. Samuel Allen, esq. and Joseph Whittington, formerly possessed an estate in Over Stonall, in the tenure of George Hawe, which had been in the Stevensons, and aforetime in the name of the Smyths, but we cannot say he was of that line.

William Allen, in the reign of Henry VIII. had issue William, of this place, who died in 1596, leaving a son John, who had Richard, of Lynne. Afterwards we observe the name in Fotherley, Wood-end, and Little Hay. James Allen, gent. paid to the royal aid in 1667, and then resided at Chesterfield.

Next we find this mansion and estate in the *Jannocks* and the *Hammonds*, of which name we meet with Vincent Ham-

mond, in the reign of king William III. married, in 1702, to Ann Sclater, and with Thomas Hammond of Edjial hall, near Lichfield, 1705; the heirs of which Thomas I take to be Fettilplace Notte, esq. high steward of Lichfield, and two ----- Hammonds, one wife of ----- Adey, of Lichfield, deceased, the other of Francis Cobbe, esq. It was afterwards in the Palmers, at present in the Smyths. This purchaser was brother of the late Sir George Smyth, baronet, who married -----, daughter of the reverend ----- Vyse, rector of St. Philips in Birmingham, and prebendary of Lichfield; which person left it to his daughter, sister of Abel Smyth, of Nottingham, gent. This was lately in the tenure of Benjamin Dorrington, now in his widow, and sons, Joseph and Thomas Dorrington.

Higher in the village towards Wall stands another mansion, more modern, built of brick, which hath for some generations, with a considerable estate belonging to it, been in the name of the *Jacksos*, before the reign of Elizabeth.

The first mentioned here is John (son of John), brother to Richard, of London, who had issue Henry (1579), Margery, and others. Richard was a barrister of Clement's Inn, Middlesex. Amongst other purchases made here was that (in the 41st year of the reign of queen Elizabeth) of the Rakemoors, jointly with William Quintyn, lying near Chesterfield and Lynne, of Edward Stanley, of Tonge, Salop, esq. These and other lands came to the family of John Jackson. We may therefore conclude, that this Richard was the chief means of establishing this family here. Anne, a daughter of John, was married to William Quintyn, which will in some degree account for their jointly purchasing of Edward Stanley. Next I find Edward Jackson (1599), who had issue John, William, Henry, whom I look
upon

upon to have been remarked in the family by the title of *Captain* (and which hath generally been applied to the eldest of his family to this day); Anne, and Francis. William, of Chesterfield, had issue John, Thomas, and others. Captain Henry joined the parliament party in the troubles, and, February 8, 1643, had a troop given him, and soon after raised another troop of 80 horse, which, with their arms and furniture, were valued at 850*l.* for which he was allowed 8 *per cent.* and the public faith for the money, signed May 12. Simon Rugeley, H. Stone, Ph. Jackson. The weekly contributions of Walsal Borough and Foreign, Barre, Aldrich, and Bentley, were assigned to him. He was so active for the cause, that Purton, Trefscot, Pattenhall, Wrottesley, Codhal, and Penford, which had been assigned for the pay of captain Gough's men (who was absent, and had but a few men), were given to him, who was to provide for, and be assisted by Gough's men; also the following towns, with their weekly pay, exacted for the army, *viz.* Bilstone and Bradley, 3*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* Clent 4*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* Bobington 3*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* Brome 1*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* Amblecote 1*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* Aredley 5*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* Sedgeley 6*l.* 10*s.* Bushbury 4*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* Moseley 1*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* Swinford Regis 5*l.* 4*s.* Hymnley 1*l.* 6*s.* Rowle 5*l.* 4*s.* Kynver 6*l.* 10*s.* Enville 6*l.* 10*s.* Perton and Trefscot 2*l.* 12*s.* Pattenhal 2*l.* 12*s.* Wrottesley 2*l.* 5*s.* Codhal 2*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* Penford 1*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* Woker 1*l.* 6*s.* Total 70*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*; rated the lower, because some of the places were in the enemies' quarters. He lived also upon free quarter on the estate of captain Robert Grosvenor, in Bushbury, and Richard Bryans; these circumstances, to which we could add many more, shew the activity of captain Henry Jackson. William afore said, was living in 1672, when Mary his wife died. John, his son, died in 1682, leaving Henry, John, Edward, and other children. Henry married Dorothy Reynolds,

Reynolds, and, as I think, fettled elfewhere ; Edward had alfo iffue. John the elder, as he is called, died at Chefterfield in 1711, leaving John, who, by Efther his wife, had John, &c. born in 1715. John, the father, in 1731 fold lands called the Rake-moors, to the inhabitants of Lyndon and Stonall, for the ufe of the poor of thofe hamlets, for whom were trustees Thomas Barfoot, John Lea, Jofeph Wyatt, Richard Steele, and others. By an agreement then made, the purchafed land was to pay one halfpenny levy out of the Chefterfield eftate, and 3l. was allowed John Jackfon, towards paffing the fine for farther fecurity. The fame John fold land called the Boffes, and a coppice near Lynne, to the late John Dolphyn, efq. This John was fon of John, fon of another John who came out of Effex, and claimed the Chefterfield eftate, as heir at law, and then married Joan, daughter of William Turner, of Hill, as the family give account. John Jackfon died at Chefterfield in 1664, leaving feveral fons and daughters. The eldeft fon, fuppoſing himſelf barred of his paternal inheritance by his father's will, put the buſineſs into the Court of Chancery, which hath not yet (1773) decided the ſaid right, nor ſeems likely to do it till the greateſt part is ſpent, and a family deprived of an eftate that greatly wants it. In this family are certain fields called the Watages, or Hayes, Upper and Nether ; alfo lands formerly the property of ----- Tomkys.

We add, that William Jackfon, in the reign of James I. owned lands in Lynne, and Stonall, but cannot affirm he was of this line ; Edward Jackfon was alfo, in the 13th year of the reign of king Charles I. witneſs to the enfranchiſing of an eftate to Margaret Thornton, of Footherley, by William Fryth, and Thomas Moreton, efqrs. I find too, that John Jackfon, of Chefterfield, paid five ſhillings and ten-pence to the aſſeſſment
for

for the aid of king Charles II. in 1667; and that John Jackson, of this village, paid to the poll-tax in 1692, for himself and family.

A family named *Bull* had lands here, but they passed soon to the Jackson's; in 1692 I find two named Richard Bull, who paid the poll tax for themselves and families. The Poors Bulmoors were probably their estate.

The name of *Milner* is ancient in this place, and is the first that occurs in the register, is Thomas, who had a child baptized March 6, 1579; next Edward Milner, 1599; Nicolas, and Humphry, who died in 1610. Stephen was living here in the reigns of queen Elizabeth and king James I. They had lands in Stonall, Chesterfield, and Lynne, in which last hamlet John Best purchased a part of them. The estates are alienated, but there yet remains a branch of the family at the Boffes.

Banke's moors, formerly in a family of the name at Upper Stonall, but, as we have observed, now in Joseph Wadams.

The *Smyths*, of this hamlet, in the reigns of William III. and queen Anne, had an estate here, part of which was Mob Hay meadows; afterwards in the Duttons, of whom we mean to speak elsewhere, purchased since by Ann Burnes, gentlewoman.

Boar moors were in the Duttons, purchased by them of the Erpes, and went as the Mob Hays.

Simon Byddulph, of Elmehurst hall, near Lichfield, possessed two or more messuages here in the reigns of queen Elizabeth and James I.; Michael Byddulph, his son, sold these, with other estates, Sept. 20, 1636, to John Jordan, of Aldrich, gent. and John Hawkes, of Sheffield, Staffordshire. Witnessed by Nicolas Potte, Thomas Worley, Theophilus Byddulph, and others, as then held by William Clarke, and William Bowring, which estates John Jordan and John Hawkes passed away in 1641 to

Alice Robyns, of Lichfield, being then named Barn woods, with fields and meadows, near the two messuages, and twenty-one acres elsewhere in this village; William Bowring and William Clarke, in 1667, paid to the assessment for the royal aid.

A family of the *Lanes* had property here. Of this family, as I conjecture, was William Lane, who married Elizabeth Stanley in 1585. Edward Lane, clerk, had lands here and at Footherley, in 1647. John, in 1667, paid to the royal aid for his estate in Chesterfield, though his residence was then at Sutton-Colefield. John (probably his son), was, in 1672, living here, and an evidence to the purchase of lands by John Thickbrome, of Little Hay, of the lords of the manor. He had issue Elizabeth, born 1682, and next year died Mary his wife. As I find no notice of him in the list that paid the poll-tax in the reign of William III. I conjecture he was dead before that time, and, if any of the name and family remained to that date, they were removed from this place.

Michael Clerke Tilly, about the reign of William III. had an estate here, and by Anne, daughter of John Brandreth, esq. had issue Michael, of this village, and, as I suppose, Margaret, wife of Job Serjeant; part of the lands belonging to the Tillys were purchased of two families named Mathews and Quintyns.

William Walton had possessions at Chesterfield about the reign of James I, or Charles I. These came to the Jeffons, a family that lived near that time at Lichfield; beforetime at Harehouse, a little distance from that city, and acquired a fortune chiefly by farming and purchasing timber. In this name were estates called Pates land, and Maple Hayes in Pipe, besides many others in Shenstone and Chesterfield. The first named is about 1664. He had a son, father of William, who had issue

William

William Jefton, barrifter at law, and a confiderable perfon. Part of his acquifitions went to his fifters fon Phineas, fon of Phineas Hufley, of Wyrley and Brewood hall, efq. but what he owned in this village paffed to the Smyths, whose ancestor was Richard Smyth, of this place (1667), and was a few years fince in the poffeffion of James Smyth, and the tenure of Jonathan Brooks.

In 1745 were the feveral open fields in this diftrict divided to the feveral proprietors, and enclosed. Thefe were chiefly Abel Smyth, and John Dolphyn, efqrs. John Jackson, Richard Greenfield (yet living), Benjamin Derrington (in the family ftill), Edward Jackson, of Wall; the fields were named Church-field, Chefterfield crofts, Smyths flats, the Balk, Common and Meadow pieces, Great-field, Little Church-field, and Horfely-fields, all which, being well cultivated and improved, are become fruitful.

The tythes of this hamlet were fold, by Michael Brandreth, of Shenftone Hall, efq. to John Porter, attorney at law, father of Sheldon Porter, lately deceased.

W A L L.

The Roman name given to this place feems to be *Vallum*; hence the Saxons called it *Wall*, others *Etocetum*, and *Wallhlega*, but whatever the true name was (for fome have given it

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the term * *Mandueffedum* or Manceter, (though falsely,) it is very clear that it was a Roman station at the time of their laying out and forming the famous way, now remaining, and called the Watling-street. One account says, that two roads were carried on from the *Acemancester* † and the street called *Acem-in-street* (so named from the sick persons or people with aches and distempers that travelled that way for a cure) to *Rata* ‡, and *Mandueffedum*, *i. e.* the village called the Wall, in Staffordshire. This we observed was a mistake, and may farther appear when we come to treat of the Roman roads that are carried through Wall §. We have curious accounts of it, as follow :

Wall, now a small village, but anciently the *Etocetum*, which Antoninus in his Itinerary makes the next station to *Mandueffedum* or Manceter. Mr. Camden for some time was of opinion that Uttoxeter was the place; but, having surveyed Watling-street very accurately, he found he was mistaken, and ingenuously confesseth it; in conclusion he positively determined this to be the place. His reasons for it are, that the distance between *Mandueffedum* (*i. e.* *Man* British for *exiguum* little, and *Cestre*, *Castrum*, camp), and *Etocetum* exactly answers, and that he met with the ruins of an old city near the road scarce a mile from Lichfield, which the inhabitants also believe and aver. The name of it at this day is Wall, from the remains of certain walls there which encompass two acres of land retaining the name of the Castle croft, as if one should say the field of the Castle.

* History of Oxfordshire.

† Bath. Urbs ægrotorum hominum.

‡ Leicester.

§ See the Appendix.

Near this flood another antient city on the other side of the way, which was demolished before the time of William the Conqueror, as the inhabitants from the same tradition tell us, and withal shew the situation of it; guessing it to be so from the great foundation, which seems the more probable from the abundance of rubbish lying about it, and several coins of Roman emperors, which they produce; these being always reckoned the most infallible proofs of antiquity.

Dr. Gibson adds, “ Upon the Roman way near Lichfield, we find a village called Wall, which is supposed to have taken that name from the fragments of an old wall upon the North side of Watling-street; Mr. Camden rightly supposes it to be the *Eto-cetum* of Antoninus, and the two antient pavements wherein there appear Roman bricks, with the remains of antiquity discovered at Chesterfield on the other side of the way put it beyond all dispute.” Mr. Camden thinks the coins an infallible proof of its antiquity, and so much the rather, because the Basilical street, (otherwise called the prætorian, sometimes consular and military way,) called Watling-street, continues hence very fair and plain, and almost without breach, till it is crossed and interrupted by the river Penk, which hath a stone bridge built over it at *Pennocrucium*, or Penkridge, and stands at the same distance that Antoninus hath fixed.

Another author * says, “ A wall one mile and half S. S. W. of Lichfield, just at the distance Antoninus sets between it and *Manduesfedum*, or Manceter, there remains in the lane on the North side of the street-way some small fragments of a wall, which, it is supposed, gave the present name to the village; and in the corn-field now termed the Butts, between the village

* Dr. Plott.

and some small cottages on the brook below, I was shewn two pavements, one above the other, at least four feet. The uppermost, which lay within eighteen inches of the surface, being made for the most part of lime and rubble stone, and the lowermost of pebbles and gravel knitted together with a very hard cement, about four inches thick, laid upon a foundation of Roman brick, and under them boulder stone of a foot thick more. Above the uppermost of these they often meet with Roman money, whereof I was shewn three pieces, of Nero, Domitian, and another emperor, so eaten with rust as not to be certainly distinguished.

Of this fort or wall little remains, except a part of the foundation, the rest having been at different times carried away for repairs of building, or turned up and removed with some expectation of finding money and in part to level and cultivate the ground it stood upon. This, and some old walls raised with a cement yet subsisting, which form the garden of Thomas Jackson, gent. are all of the two cities that time hath spared, begun or built, probably, by Julius Agricola, the Roman lieutenant in Britain under Vespasian the emperor, in whose time the Britains made great improvements, becoming more civilized;" expressed by historians * in the following terms :

" Whereas the Britons, hitherto harrassed with oppression and wars, had little leisure or will to apply themselves to things which accompany peace, and are the ornaments of civil and settled societies ; and therefore were prone on every occasion to revolt and stir ; to induce them by pleasures to quietness and rest, he exhorted them in private, and helped them in public, to build temples, houses, places of assembly, and common resort ;

* Speed.

and

and likewise provided, that the sons of their nobles should be instructed in the arts and sciences, commending the industry and preferring the wits of the Britons before the students of France, as being now grown curious to attain the eloquence of the Roman gentry, yea, even the gown, the habit of peace and peaceable arts, and to delight in gorgeous buildings, banquets, and baths." Now one can hardly suppose a Roman governor, of such policy, so well approved of by the natives, as is elsewhere described, and who had such opportunity of carrying on great works, would neglect to form roads through the bogs, woods, and fastnesses, with which this land abounded, for the better security of travellers, as well as for the farther establishment of the Roman dominion here. Another reason also offers, from his conquests of North Britain, part of Wales, and the Isle of Anglesey, why the roads should be commodious for the marching of armies, and why mansions or stations should be erected at proper distances: such are supposed to be Manceter, Wall, Penkridge, Stretton, and others in this neighbourhood. I * the rather think these works were at this time effected, because it is expressed, that the Northern inhabitants of this island, *more at liberty, and emboldened by their bogs and rocks inaccessible*, set themselves in a few years after to withstand their wrongs, to whom also many others joined their affections, whereupon some bickering ensued with loss and blood. After they were crushed by Hadrian, it is added, "the Southern Britons seemed not greatly to contend, but patiently bore the yoke of subjection, which time and custom had made less painful, the rather for that they saw themselves to stand in need of the Romans help against the inroads of their own countrymen, whose cruelty was

* Speed.

now as much feared as in former times the invasion of strangers. Whereupon they conformed themselves more willingly to the Roman laws, both in martial and civil affairs." Or, perhaps, these works were to better effect carried on by Severus the emperor, who, as well as Hadrian, did great things in this island, in the way we have related, and resided at York; on which it is observed, that the stations of the Roman colonies were the seed plots of all our cities and principal towns.

Another writer says *, that Julius Agricola was not wholly taken up by war, but carefully informed himself in whatever related to the government of this province, and the most proper methods to keep the subjects in obedience; he also redressed several abuses, which had been introduced by the greediness or negligence of preceding governors. In this second campaign, after making some acquisitions, he observed, that the Romans commonly lost in the winter what they had subdued in the summer, and that this was owing to their not daring to winter in those countries, as being too much exposed; he therefore resolved (that this might be prevented for the future) to erect forts in the most convenient places; where keeping garrisons in the winter, they would always be in readiness to repel the enemy. As he perfectly well understood this branch of the art military, the forts were so advantageously situated, and built in such a manner, that the Romans were under no necessity of quitting, and the enemies could never master them.

Ulpus Trajanus crushed the revolted Britons, appointed the municipal laws at sessions and assizes, ordered the rods and axes to be presented to the backs and necks of the common people, *and enlarged the Roman roads here †.*

* Rapin.

† Leigh's Natural History.

Theodosius,

Theodosius, being sent hither by Valentinian the emperor (who reigned anno Christi 364), settled Britain in quiet, *re-edified the cities, repaired the garrison castles*, fortifying the frontiers with *standing watches* and *strong forefences*, or, as Rapin has it, “secured and re-established London, rebuilt the fortifications and castles which had been ruined, and put them in a condition to check any future invasions from the Northern people.”

These authorities quoted shew sufficiently, that such forts as we are speaking of were erected by Julius Agricola, and probably this named Wall among the rest, as being a pretorian or consular road. The reader, however, is left to his own sentiments, whether Severus, Hadrian, Trajan, or Theodosius, effected these matters. The following times were so full of confusion, and the Roman empire so harassed on every side, that it seems unlikely such works were erected, and such noble ways laid out and formed by the Romans, afterwards in Britain.

Tradition and history both say, and this confirmed by the inhabitants, that Wall had its chapel, situate on the ground leading to Chesterfield, and in this parish of Shenstone; probably inclining to ruin after its lands were taken at the Dissolution under king Henry VIII. Such chapel was convenient for the people of Wall, Chesterfield, and Aldershaw. I have before mentioned the church lands in Chesterfield; and, no doubt, more was appropriated to it in the other hamlets, swallowed up by the crown, and the avarice of greedy courtiers; and still, like other ecclesiastical property, absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the clergy, in the hands of laymen. Antiquaries and others also observe, that in more antient times here was a temple, consecrated, no doubt, to the Roman deities, and afterwards a church, pretending also to point out where it stood *.

* Speed.

Robert

Robert de Wall, of this village, was witness to a grant of Thomas Cementarius (Mason) passing a messuage and land here to Robert Fitz Godwyn, of Alresfage (Aldershaw) *. This is not dated.

Roger de Mora del Wall evidenced another deed of Galfridus Fitz Walter de Chesterfield, passing lands to Nicolas Fitz Robert Fitz Godwyn de Alrēsaw. This also is without date.

Hugh de la Wall, in 1311, witnessed the grant of Adam de la Lynde, of property to his son; and, in 1315 (8 Edward II.) to John de la Lynde's grants of lands to Adam de la Lynde. Radulph de Wall witnessed a deed of Nicolas de Lydiart, passing estates to John, son of Edmund de Lynde, dated 11 Edward III. 1338. Randolph de la Wall, witness (1340) to the grant of W. de Seckerton of lands to Hugh, son of William Nichols, in Stonall; and the same year, 1340, to the grant of Maud de Walters, of land in Eccleshall (Aldershaw), to Simon, son of William Nichols.

Elena, lady of Wall, Adam, son of Simon de Wall, William and John Rygbye, William Rygbye, junior, William Tibbins, of Wall, had right to pasture, and the common in Allershawalde, as proved May 7, in the 43d year of the reign of Edward III. at Westminster †.

Adam Thompson del Wall, in the 46th year of the reign of Edward III. witnessed a grant of Robert Draycott, of Lichfield, conveying lands to John Thomenhorne.

Edward Timneson de la Walle witnessed a grant of lands from Henry de la Lynde to Adam de Redehull and John de Thomenhorne, dated 1374.

* In the possession of Anne Burnes, of Alreshaw, widow.

† Deed in my possession.

The tythes of this hamlet are in three proprietors; the right honourable Arthur earl of Donegal, of Fisherwick; — Swynfen, of Swynfen; and the heirs of John Porter, of Lichfield. That part of the tythes that lies in Shenstone parish, with those of Chesterfield, are in the last named heirs. John Porter, attorney at law, of Lichfield, purchased these, as I think, of Michael Brandreth, esq. By a daughter of — Sheldon, gent. a lady of good fortune, if not an heiress, he had issue Sheldon Porter, esq. possessor of estates in Wall, Pipe, Lichfield, Chesterfield, West Bromwich, and elsewhere, who died unmarried, in 1766, at Wall, where he had erected an handsome mansion on the foundation of an ancient family house in the name of Quintyn, or St. Quintyn. The possessors of Sheldon Porter's estates are two sisters, coheirs; Sarah, widow of Edward Jackson, of Wall, gent. and Penelope, yet unmarried; both whose residence is at Lichfield.

The manor of Wall is divided, as the hamlet itself is, by the Watling-street, which passes through the middle of it. That part of it that is in Shenstone parish, and lies towards Chesterfield, belongs to William Tenant, esq. lord of the manor of Shenstone; the other side of Wall, on the Watling-street, is in the parish of St. Michael, in the city of Lichfield.

The family of the *Lytteltons*, of Pillaton hall, Staffordshire, possessed lands in the reign of Edward VI. Sir Edward Lyttelton, knight, owned them. Part of these lands passed afterwards to the name of Dutton, resident in Wall; another portion of them to — Burnes of Lichfield, gent. Dutton's part lately passed to the family of Burnes, by purchase, as I think, in the year 1769.

A fourth part of the manor of Wall, and other estates therein, were in the name of Popham. Sir John Popham, a person me-

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morable

morable for his noble descent, strict justice, and unwearied diligence, as lord chief justice of the King's Bench, possessed them in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. and had his seats at Littlecote, Wiltshire, and Wellington, Somersetshire. John Popham, esq. of Littlecote, in the reigns of James I. and Charles I. sold the said fourth part of the manor of Wall, lands lying in Wall, Shenstone, Pipe, Hamerwich, Aldershaw, and Lichfield, Staffordshire, to Francis * Erpe, gent. Sir Francis Popham, of Littlecote, had a daughter Lætitia, wife of Sir Edward Seymour, the fourth baronet of that family, whose son, Sir Edward, fifth baronet, also married Lætitia, only daughter of Sir Francis Popham, of Littlecote, knight of the Bath. Alexander Popham, in the reign of queen Anne, married Anne, daughter of Ralph duke of Montague, and had issue an only daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Richard Montague viscount Hinchinbroke, mother by him of John earl of Sandwich.

Quintyn, or *St. Quintyn*, is a name and family of note for antiquity and possessions in Wall, Lichfield, and Longden; but the first I meet with settled in Wall is William Quintyn, derived of French lineage that took their name from St. Quintyn, a town in Piccardy, and most likely settled in this nation in the reign of William I. William Quintyn, of Wall, son of William, who died in 1596, at Wall, married Anne (daughter, as I think, of John), Jackson, in 1597. Dorothy Quintyn was married that year to Richard Sylvester, of Over Stonall, and had Richard, born 1599. Richard Quintyn, son of William, was witness to the sale of lands by Richard Sylvester to Rowland Rydding, in the 13th year of the reign of James I. In 1631 lived John Quintyn of Wall, gent. who, in 1644-5, was obliged

* See Lynne.

to pay to Robert Tuthill, governor of Rushall house, 20*l.* immediately, besides his weekly contribution, for the use of that parliamentary garrison. In 1647 William Quintyn, of Derby, Thomas Orme, of Ashborne in the Peak, and Elizabeth his wife, sold to John Quinton, of Wall, a messuage, barns, orchard, garden, curtilage, in Wall; a close called Crof, a green, land named Round hills, seven acres of arable land in Wall, and Rakemoor meadow in Shenstone parish, then in the tenure of the said John; witnessed by Richard Gladwyn, John Nevil, W. Leyton, Thomas Mather, and William Quinton, of Wall; John Quintyn died in 1658, possessed of considerable estates in Lichfield, Hamerwick, Shenstone, Wall, and elsewhere, leaving issue William, John, and Thomas, Elizabeth; wife of Thomas Webbe, Mary, and Anne. This John Quintyn made, besides what is abovesaid, several purchases, some tenements of John Smyth, of Lichfield; the Muckleys in Wall, of William Bull, with a burgage in Geeces-lane, Lichfield; land in Hamerwick of Nicolas Smallwood; and in Lichfield of Thomas Martyn. To the said John Quintyn's will, dated August 16, 1658, are witnesses Thomas Nevil, Richard Gladwyn, and Sarah Wolverstan. Eleanor, his widow, was living in 1664.

William Quintyn, as appears by an agreement made in his life-time, was contracted to Alice, daughter of Thomas Dutton, of Wall, gent. who was to pay her 300*l.* as her present fortune, and I suppose the marriage was consummated. This Thomas Dutton is in the said contract named his cousin William, died in 1698-9, leaving John and Thomas, if no other children.

Thomas Quintyn, of Freeford, brother, as I conjecture, of John father of William, died in 1704. Another Thomas died in 1706, at Wall. Elizabeth Quintyn, widow, died there in

1711, as did Sarah Quintyn; also Thomas, in 1713, possessed of lands in Chesterfield and Wall. John, eldest son of William, was noted for a well-bred gentleman, and was then the head of this family, with an estate of 200l. yearly, which he chiefly farmed himself; dying unmarried, Thomas, his brother, became his principal heir, who owned Leyfields, and other lands near Swynfen, but afterwards proved a waster; in a few years his estates were in mortgage to —— Turton, esq. of Hargrave, and afterwards were sold to John Porter of Lichfield, attorney at law, whose son, Sheldon Porter, in the present reign, erected a handsome mansion on the spot where stood the ancient family house of the Quintyns. Thomas Quintyn had issue three daughters, Elizabeth, who died young; Anne, wife of —— Jackson, goldsmith, at Lichfield, who had issue one daughter, lately living; and Alicia, wife of James Garlick, of Stourbridge, surgeon, afterwards in that capacity in the army or navy, and a chief surgeon of the hospital at Woolwich or Sheerness, who died a few years since, without issue; she was living in 1773.

Leyfields abovesaid, near Swynfen, were sold by Thomas Quintyn to —— Capper, of Birmingham.

Lands named Rosthall's, and part of the Rakemoors, passed from Thomas Quintyn, to the Jacksons of Wall.

James Garlick abovesaid had in his possession several coins of Allectus, who assumed the purple and title of emperor A. D. 294, and, if I remember right, of Carausius, his predecessor in this island; he also shewed me many of the emperor Constantine, and others found in Wall.

Facing the streetway from Chesterfield towards Aldershaw, in the way to Lichfield, stands an ancient mansion of brick, with a court and wall in the front of the yard, and barns, seemingly erected in the reigns of king Charles II. or king William III.

in the family and heirs of the Duttons till of late, though in the village of Wall; it is in St. Michael's parish, Lichfield.

These *Duttons* had their original from a good family of the name, well known and esteemed in Cheshire, and in Wall and its neighbourhood, possessed about 200l. yearly, part of which Thomas Dutton in the reign of George I. or George II. left to Thomas Stanley, of Edinghall, gent. his nephew, whose family, seated sometimes there, and at Thornes, yet enjoys it.

How long the Duttons have resided at Wall I have not learnt, but find Thomas Dutton, of this place, in the reigns of king Charles I. and king Charles II. Ann Dutton died here in 1687. Thomas, their son, died here in 1689, and Mary, his widow, in 1694; they left Thomas, whose wife, Margaret, died in 1707. This Thomas seems to be the person who made Thomas Stanley his chief heir, as before said; but as the family lived in another parish, I could gather little more with certainty about it. The mansion and estate remaining to several heirs, was, in 1769, sold to Anne Burnes, relict of Richard Burnes, of Aldershaw, esq. for the use of John Burnes Floyer, their son, a minor of seventeen years of age, which Anne has since fallen and disposed of a quantity of excellent timber that grew upon it.

About the center of Wall, facing the streetway, and in the view directly towards Shenstone church, at two miles distance, is an old habitation of the Jacksons, a family branched out of those settled at Chesterfield, probably in the reigns of Elizabeth or king James I. of whose line seems to have been the wife of William Quintyn, 1597, but it is scarcely possible to distinguish the several families, there being at least three at Wall and Chesterfield. The habitation aforesaid hath generally been in settlement of the eldest son's wife, who, on the death of her husband,
retired

retired hither, but it is now nearly decayed; the barns, stables, court, and walled gardens are yet in being, but are in ruins, except the barns, that are kept up as conveniencies; at the distance of two stones cast behind these, and upon a delightful eminence, is the family mansion, to which considerable additions were made by Edward Jackson, the last possessor. This branch possesses a tolerable good estate, which was much more considerable, but hath been injured by settlements, mortgages, and sale of much land in consequence, by no means the fault of the present owner. Of this family was Henry, who left issue William and John, both named of Wall in 1631. William, as I think, left Henry, Elizabeth, and others. Henry, in 1664, had issue Henry, living in 1685, who married Dorothy, daughter of — Reynolds (at the same time lived in this place Henry, son of Edward Jackson), who had issue Edward and Henry (1705). Henry, their father, in 1688, Alexander Ward, of Shenstone park; Francis Wheeley, of Aldrich; John Bankes, of Over Stonall; Thurstan Southern, of Elmhurst, &c. joined in levying a fine for securing a messuage, a cottage and 110 acres of land in Ogley Hay; with whom also James Adams levied a fine for his Birches pieces. Henry Jackson married Anne, daughter of John Quintyn, of Wall and Longdon, or Gorstymoor green, in that parish, with whom, as a daughter and coheir of that family, he had the farm called Mather's, in Wall, in the tenure of Thomas Mathers; a farm called Nevil's, in Chesterfield; and the estate of John Quintyn aforesaid, at Gorstymoor green, and other lands. They had issue Edward, Thomas, Henry, a tradesman in Birmingham, yet living, and unmarried, Elizabeth, Sarah, Anne, who died young, and Maria, all living.

Edward,

Edward, the eldest son, married Sarah, daughter of John, and sister of Sheldon Porter, late of Wall, but by her, who resides at Lichfield, had no child. He is dead.

Thomas, the second son, was settled in the iron trade at Dudley, and upon the decease of Edward his brother, about 1764, removed to Wall; he sold the estate at Longdon to Richard Bayley, of Lichfield; and another called the Wattages to John Dolphyn, esq. which is now in the tenure of John Blackmore, of Shenstone, by ———, daughter of ——— Nicklyn, of Dudley, gent. This Thomas Jackson hath issue Thomas, master of the Grammar school at Dudley, Henry, who married ——— daughter of Thomas Adcock, of Lyndon, and hath issue Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Mallett, of Swynfen, and Anne, of ——— Higgenfon, of Wall.

In this village, adjoining to the habitation of Thomas Jackson, is a farm house and land belonging of old time to the corporation of Lichfield, for the use of a fraternity or guild in that city; *geld*, in the Saxon tongue, signifying money, and so named because they were associated either for charity, religion, or merchandize: and the members of it put together money, goods, or lands, for the support of the common charge; and had their annual feasts and neighbourly meetings. The purpose of this guild was for supplying Lichfield with good and fresh water, which by leaden pipes is conveyed near a mile, from the lands of John Burnes Floyer, at Alderthaw. The springs, six or seven in number, are well secured and covered with masonry work, and the water is thence conveyed to a conduit in Lichfield; the lands appropriated for this end are called the Conduit lands. At first such meetings were used by a mutual agreement of friends and neighbours, and particular licences were granted them

them for conferring lands or rents for the designs abovesaid, in order to evade the statute of mortmain, by which such gifts would otherwise have been forfeited. In the reign of Henry VIII, about the time of the seizing the church lands, this fraternity or guild, for fear of being seized was speedily enfeoffed with other lands, which I look upon to be the Wall estate, let to — Hicson, or Higgenfon, at 48l. yearly.

Lands named the *Lightwoods* or *Hellmoors* were purchased by John Porter, as I conjecture of the Quintyns, and passed to Sheldon his son, now the estate of his sisters and coheirs. The same family possesses another good old mansion, with a farm annexed, called by the name of the Moat-bank, which lies at the farther end of Wall, towards Ogley, Hay, and Cannoc wood. There are also some few other houses in this hamlet, but we find nothing observable of them more than that we barely mention them.

We might add, that the Roman soldiers who seized St. Amphibalus and his disciples (who had their place of worship, A.D. 286, at Christianfield, near Stickbrooke, a little distance from Lichfield), were dispatched for that purpose from this station of *Etocetum*, or Wall. This persecution was named Maximinian's.

Lichfield (in which parish one half of Wall is) had no name till that persecution, and A.D. 672 was a small village; nay, soon after the year 1075 the bishop removed his seat from it, a decree being made in a synod, that the sees of bishops should not be in small villages. The bishop translated it to Chester.

A L D E R S H A W:

So termed from a plantation of *alder* trees, and *shaw*, a name for many trees planted together, or the shadow of trees. It was formerly a manor, as Wall and Chesterfield, but now absorbed in the manor and corporation of Lichfield. Being annexed to Wall, and near to it, I could hardly avoid taking notice of it, having received from the late worthy Richard Burnes, esq. my friend and acquaintance, whose seat is almost the only house remaining in what was originally the manor of Aldershaw, some papers that have been useful to me in compiling these memorable things of Shenstone and its hamlets.

The following deeds I received from his hands, and, agreeable to a promise made him, here insert translations from the Latin, in which language they are written.

“ Know, all men, present and future, that I Thomas Cementarius (Mason), with the approbation and consent of Sarah my wife, have given and granted, and by this present deed have confirmed, to Robert son of Godwin de Alresage, his assigns and heirs, all the third part of my messuage, with the appurtenances, in Alresage, *viz.* that part which lies nearest the warren, and a fourth part of the virgate of land which I recovered before the justices of our said lord the king, which fourth part contains six acres lying in the free-field of Alresage; also two other acres, with their rights, to be held of me and my heirs, and to be held by him, his assigns, and heirs, by their homage and service, in free inheritance and peaceably, with all usual emoluments, paying to me, my wife Sarah, and our heirs, twelve pence yearly, at two stated times, instead of all service and demands, *viz.* at the feast of St. Michael six pence, and at the feast of St. Mary; for which gift and grant the

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aforesaid

aforesaid Robert hath paid down one mark of silver, on which I Thomas and the aforesaid Sarah have warranted for ever the aforesaid land, as set forth to Robert abovementioned, his assigns and heirs, farther confirming the agreement by pledging hands *, and that this my gift and grant, with the free assent of the aforesaid Sarah, may remain firm and stable, I have strengthened it by my hand and seal. Witnesses, Geoffry Poynings, Robert de Wall, Thomas de Sahams, Robert de More, Alexander de Manchester, Roger Fitz Alan, Henry de Hamerwiche, Nicolas Typper, and many others. This deed has no date.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Geoffry Fitz Walter de Chesterfield † have given and granted, and by this present deed have confirmed, to Nicolas Fitz Robert Godwyn de Alresage, for his suit and service, all that land which I held of my lord the bishop in the fields called Licholvefrndwig, with its rights lying upon the hill, and all the moor which I held of the bishop, saving to my heirs one fellion of land lying to the quarry, to be held, &c. paying to me, my heirs and assigns, yearly, one penny at the feast of St. John the Baptist, instead of service, exaction, and secular demands. For this my gift and grant, and confirming this writing, he hath, however, paid me in hand five shillings in silver; and I Geoffry, for myself, my heirs and assigns, have confirmed the said land, one selion excepted, and the moor, and have warranted the same to the aforesaid Nicolas and his heirs, against all men and women for ever, in evidence of which I have hereunto set my hand and seal. Witnesses, Alwyn de Wyrley, Hen. de Watre, Hen. de St. Angulo, Richard Andrew, Geoffry Fitz Maud, Roger de More de Wall, and others. This is not dated.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Adam de la Lynde, have given, granted, and by this present writing have confirmed, to my son, all the land and tenements I held of the gift and grant of Henry Nichols de Lechfield, with all their rights, to be held of the capital mansion in Alreschal by John de la Lynde, my son, his heirs, and assigns, paying due and lawful suit and service for ever, in testimony of which I have hereunto set my hand and seal this seventh day next after the feast of the blessed Virgin Mary, in the fourth year of the reign of Edward, son of king Edward, of our Lord 1311. Test. Hugh de Wall, Rich. de Hardwic, Nic. de Lydiat de Allershall. Dated at Allershall.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I John, son of Nicolas de la Lynde, have granted &c. to John, son of Adam de la Lynde, my kinsman, his heirs and assigns, all the lands and tenements which the same Adam, his father, had of the gift and enfeoffment of Henry Nichols, in Alleschale, with their rights, to be held of the capital mansion of the fee by the usual customs for ever. Witness Hugh de la Wall, Hugh de la Byrde, Nicolas at Lydiat de Allischale, Hugh de Allershall. Dated 7th next the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, 8th of Edward, son of king Edward, 1315.

“ Know, all men, that I Jeffry Lyly grant unto Simon, son of William de Allershall, the full possession of the lands before passed to him, being my property in the

* Fide nudis manibus interpositâ.

† Cestresfield.

Riddings of Allershall, all the leafes of those lands which he holdeth in the manor of Longdon. Dated at Allershall, ninth of Edward III. 1339.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I William de Seckerton, rector of the church of Honon, have granted to Hugh Fitz William Nichols de Allershall, and to Simon his brother, all the lands and tenements, with the moors, pastures, and other appurtenances thereto belonging, with all the land which I have and hold at Hull, Houses in Allershall, Stonyhull, Littlemore, and Allershall mogges, to have and to hold, &c. In testimony of which I have set my hand and seal to this present paper. Witneses, Ralph de Wall, Nicolas de Allershall, Thomas de Polleworth, Nicolas at Lydyard de Allershall, John de la Lynde de Allershall. Dated at Allershall the first day after the feast of St. Hilary, in the reign of Edward III. after the Conquest the thirteenth, 1340.

“ To all the faithful in Christ; know ye, that I Nicolas at Lydiart de Allershall have passed, to John Fitz Adam de la Lynde de Aldershall, all the lands and tenements which Adam de la Lynde held of me in Allershal, and hereunto have set my hand and seal. Witneses, Radulph de Wall, William Nichols, Robert Hayes, Thomas de Polleworth, and others. Dated at Allershall, on Monday next after St. Peter *ad vincula*, eleventh year of the reign of Edward III.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Matilda lady de Walters, being in my widowhood and in full power, have given, granted, and confirmed, to Simon Fitz William Nichols (Nicolas) de Alreshaw, his heirs and assigns, all the lands and tenements, with their rights, of my property, lying and being in Lachelf mogges in Elashale altogether, according to the measures and limits set, to have and to hold, &c. for ever, of the capital mansion of the fee, by the usual services. And I the aforesaid Matilda, and my heirs, do warrant the same lands and tenements to the said Simon and his heirs against all men for ever. In evidence of which I have hereto set my seal, in the presence of Randolph de Wall, William le Tanner de Lichfield, Nicolas at Lydiart de Allershall, William Nichols de Allershall, Edward de Pipe Parva*, and others. Dated at Allershall in the thirteenth of Edward the Third after the Conquest, on the feast of the blessed Virgin Mary, and in 1340.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I John de la Lynde de Allershale, have granted to Hugh de Allershall (gent.), and Simon his brother, their heirs and assigns, one acre of land, &c. lying in Allerschale, in my field near the Middlestatche, and one acre in the field called Dunningham or Wall field; and eight several butts lying separately in the same. In testimony, &c. Witneses, William Nichols, John Attemore, Robert Collins, William Clive, Robert Lecche de Allershall, and others. Dated at Allershall on the feast of St. Michael the Arch Angel, sixteenth of Edward III. after the Conquest, and in 1343.

In the 43d year of the reign of Edward III. directed to all the inhabitants of Aldershall, and those near it, who have claim therein. “ Edward III. by the grace of God, of England and France king, lord of Ireland, &c. to the sheriff of Staffordshire, greeting; Be it known, that Thomas le Tanner, of Lichfield, John de la Lynde, Adam de Redehull, and Agatha his wife, with Alice her daughter, Nicolas de Lydiart de Allershawle, John lord of Pipe, Elena lady of Wall,

* A village near Aldershaw.

Henry de Leach de Pipe (*besfelke* *), John de Herdeswic, Alicia his wife, William de Landy, and Editha his wife, Adam Fitz Simon de Wall, William Rygby de Wall, John Rygby de Wall, William Rygby de Wall, junior, John Lettreman, Agnes wife of Richard Birde, William Tibbins de Wall, have unjustly claimed privileges in Allershalle, having therein more beasts and cattle than is right. Ye are therefore to examine, &c. On which examination it appeared, that they had such rights, and had not over pastured Allershall fields. So confirmed at Westminster, 43 Edward III. on the oaths of John de Ashborne, John Lyon, John Walton, Richard Walton, William de Curborough, John Lyon, Roger de Cheshire, Roger de Redware, John de Wychale, Roger de Hintz, John de Sadler, John Allefmere de Allersshaw, Roger de Tutton, Henry Puet, and Robert de Wathlone; who affirm on oath, that each person who hath one messuage and one virgate of land there, ought to have common pasture for six oxen, four heifers, four cows, and one hundred sheep, but these only of their own cattle. Signed and attested by the persons abovesaid, in the year of our Lord 1370.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Robert de Draycote de Lichfield have granted to John Thomynhorne de Allerschall, Alice his wife, and their assigns, a moiety of the land lying in Middle waste croft, formerly the property of Editha Waters; in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my seal. Witneses, Adam Pratt, William de Wyrley, Henry de Wache of Pipe Parva, Adam Thompson del Wall, John de Lynde, and others. Dated at Lichfield on Monday next after the Ascension of our Lord 1373, 46 Edward III.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Thomas le Tanner, of Lichfield, have releasod for myself and my heirs, to Henry de Lynne and his assigns, all the right and claim which I have or may have in all the lands and tenements in Alderscale, which were formerly the property of John de la Lynde, father of Henry de Lynde aforesaid, so that I, my heirs, and assigns, may have no future claim; in evidence whereof I have hereunto set my seal. Witneses, Thomas de Ryder, Richard de Trafford, John de Wyrley, Hugh de Hopeways, Henry de Timmore and his son Henry, John de Timmore, and Simon de Lichfield, and others. Dated at Lichfield on the feast of St. Mark, 47 Edward III. 1374.

“ Know, all men, that Henry de la Lynne grants to Adam de Redehul, and to John de Thomynhorne, all the lands and tenements in Alderschale which were formerly John de Lynne's his father. Dated at Allerschale. Witneses, Robert de Swynfen, Henry de Wache, James le More, William de Bowerer de Lichfield, Edward Timmeson de Wall, and others, 1374, Sunday after the feast of St. Dunstan.

“ Know, all men, &c. that Sarah, daughter of Lambert Francigena (French), grants to Robert, son of Goodwyn, of Allerschale, as enumerated in the deed of of Robert Cementarius, whose wife I look upon this Sarah to have been (see the first deed).

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Sarah Walters, relict of John de Walters, being in my full widowhood, and in full power, have granted to John Thomynhorn of

* Not intelligible.

Allerschale all that my land lying in the close named Wafrecroft, leaning to the road called Falseway on the one side, and to the land called Idefmoore on the other part; also I have granted to the said John all my land lying in Clerks-crofte, within the fee of Lichfield, between the land of Richard de Perton on the one part, and the land of Agnes de Draycote on the other part, to be held by the said John de Thomynhorne and his heirs, of the capital mansion of the said fee, by the usual services and customs, viz. three-pence to the lord of the manor on St. John the Baptist's day, and three-pence on the Nativity of Christ, for all services and secular demands; on which I the aforesaid Sarah, and my heirs, warrant the said lands to John de Thamenhorne, his heirs, &c. In evidence of which I have set my seal to this deed. Witneses, William de Walters de Lichfield, Henry and Nicolas de Pipe, Henry de Thamenhorne, William de Ferrers, John de Heywood the Forester, and others. Dated at Lichfield, on the feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, 50th of king Edward III. 1377.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Richard de Redehul, son and heir of Adam de Redehul, have granted, &c. to John de Allefchale, all that moiety of land lying in the close called Waftcrofte, lying to the Falseway on one part, and the way called the Hydesmere on the other, with their rights, being aforetime the property of the said Adam and Agatha his wife, and hereto I have set my seal, in presence of Robert de Swynfen, Thomas de Cook, Roger de Preston, John de Heywood, John de Criven, and others. Dated at Lichfield, 1 Henry IV. 1399.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I John de Allerscale have granted to Sir William Newport a croft called Waftcroft, in the fee of Lichfield, and four acres of land, with their rights, in Clerkcroft, lying near the land of Robert Ridway, W. de Packington, except one acre in the said croft, called Wafrecroft, remaining to the vicars of Lichfield; which croft and four acres were formerly the property of Dame Sarah Walters, relict of John le Walters; and hereto I have set my seal. Witneses, Henry Dean, J. Rutter, Richard Chambers, Robert Bowyer, John Scriven, and others. Dated at Lichfield the second day after the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, 11 Henry IV. 1410.

“ John de Allerscale and Sybil his wife leased the same lands to Sir William Newport, paying yearly to them a red rose on the Nativity of John the Baptist. Dated at Lichfield, next day after the feast of St. Simon and Jude, 11 Henry IV. 1410.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Agnes, widow of Roger de la Lynde, have passed to Sir William Newport all my claim in a parcel of land called Clog flats in Allerscale, and in a parcel of land in Wall field, and Middle field. Witneses, John de Barre, Richard de Colman, John Pott, and others. Dated at Lichfield, 20 April, 1430, 8 Henry VI.”

From the deeds aforesaid it seems clear to me, that in early times, most likely soon after the Conquest, some person settled here took his name from the place *Allerschale* as it is written,

now *Aldershaw*, and possessed the rights of a manor here, if not also in Wall; and the late possessor had thoughts of claiming them, assuring me he doubted not of making good such pretensions from deeds and other memorials in his possession; and that this family had the manor, or possessed lands in it, to the 11th year of the reign of king Henry IV. if not longer. After this time the principal estate and mansion was, as I conjecture, in Sir William Newport's family. Either these, or a good estate here, were the property of the Lytteltons, of which family was Sir Edward, knight, who died possessed of them in the reign of Edward VI. and left them to Sir Edward, his son; which lands, or a considerable part of them, have long been in the name of Burnes. Another part we said was heretofore in the family of the Duttons, of Wall, now likewise in John Burnes Floyer, esq. Of this name and family was John Burnes, early in Elizabeth's reign, also a member of the corporation of the city and county of Lichfield in 1583, who probably raised and established his house. He had issue Thomas, who, by Margery, daughter of — Nichols, of Walsal, had issue John, who died in the lifetime of his father, leaving John, who died in 1682, a mercer, and person of fortune in Lichfield, a very active man for the parliament in the civil war, and in the commission of the peace in the time of Oliver Cromwell the protector. By Sarah, daughter of Richard Pyott, of Strethay, near Lichfield, esq. he left a son Richard, who died in 1692, who, by Dorothy, daughter of Ralph Hawkes, of Newton, esq. (of the same stock with — Hawkes, late of Hopwas wood, near Tamworth, esq.) had issue John, who died young, Richard, and two daughters who died unmarried. Richard Burnes, esq. of Aldershaw, died about the year 1767, leaving by Anne, daughter of John Leonard, of Wednesbury, one son, John Burnes Floyer, yet a minor, adopted

adopted heir of John Floyer, late of Longdon, esq. and one daughter, Favoretta, aged 21.

Information hath been given me, that Thomas Burnes, in the reigns of queen Elizabeth and king James I. had a daughter, wife of Thomas Mynors, bailiff of Lichfield in the troublesome times of king Charles I. and a busy man for the parliament interest, an active justice of the peace, member of parliament under the protector, and founder of a free-school in Lichfield; guardian also of John Burns, the mercer, abovementioned. This Thomas Burns purchased Aldershaw and its mansion, then moated round, and in the first year of the reign of James I. part of Aldershaw, lands of Sir Edward Lyttelton, of Pillaton, called the Pamfields, with others adjoining named the Abnells. Lemonfley, near Aldershaw, is a portion of lands belonging to the family of Burns in part; another part was given to the school in Beau Street, Lichfield, by Thomas Minors, its founder, as before noted.

The last Richard Burns, of Aldershaw, with Randolph Bradburn, of Pipe hill, purchased lands called the Upper Wattages, which passed into the hands of Edward Jackson, late of Wall, who (or some person who recovered them from him) sold them soon after.

In 1741 an act of parliament passed for raising the sum of two millions thirty-eight thousand sixty-five pounds eleven shillings and five-pence, of which Lichfield was to raise four hundred and twenty pounds nineteen shillings and four-pence; Samuel Hill, esq. of Shenstone park, and Richard Burns, were commissioners, as they were in most public affairs during their lives.

Richard Burnes, esq. was one of the trustees for that fraternity in Lichfield, called St. Catharine's hospital, for the support of fourteen poor women; which charity being greatly
abused,

abused, the grievance was redressed in some measure by his instigation, and by the particular application of his friend the late John Floyer, of London, esq. who procured a decree in chancery for the better management of the said charity.

Aldershaw hall is a neat and modern-built house, with walled gardens, and canals; being situated on a rising ground, it affords a fine view of Lichfield cathedral, and part of the city. John Popham had lands in Aldershaw, which passed with those mentioned in Wall.

S W Y N F E N.

Swynfen is a village on the road from Hintz and Weeford to Lichfield. It is not, indeed, in the parish of Shenstone, but in Weeford, yet, being in its constablewic, I found myself under some sort of obligation not wholly to omit it. What is properly called the district contains no notable mansion, except the hall itself, which is an elegant seat, begun by the last possessor, under the direction of Benjamin Wyatt, late of Blackbrock, in the parish of Weeford (Wayford), a noted architect; and which, though a designed wing is not yet completed, hath cost upwards of six thousand pounds.

The manor of Swynfen, being in the reign of king William I. in the parish of Weeford, appurtained to the bishop, yet afterwards

wards was in the family of Ferrers; for, Robert second earl of Ferrers confirmed the religious donations made here in or before the reign of king Henry II. William de Rolleston seems to have held the manor of Swynfen under the family of Ferrers; for, in the days of William Rufus, or Henry I. this William, son of Sir Henry Rolleston, of Rolleston, in Staffordshire, dying issueless, gave two parts of the tenths of his demesne lands at Swynfen to the priory of Tutbury, in Derbyshire, which grant was confirmed by Robert earl Ferrers, son of Henry the founder of it. How long it was in the name of Rolleston I have not learnt, though probably some ages, as they were persons of note in this county. Yet I find, that in the reign of Henry I. Robert de Tonkes had one fee in Sudenfeyn (Swinefen): in all likelihood, some person in one of these families in time took the surname of Swynfen. In 1374, Robert de Swynfen witnessed the grant of Henry de la Lynde to Adam de Redehill, and John de Thamenhorne, passing lands in Alderthaw. In 1399, Robert de Swynfen (perhaps his son) was witness to a deed of Richard Redehill, passing lands to John de Allerschale. In the 13th year of the reign of Henry VI. William Erdsfwic Swinefen, of Swinefen, married Jocosa, or Joyce, daughter and coheir of William Sparnore; and in the reign of Henry VIII. John Swynfen, of this place, married Maria, daughter of William Repyngton, of Amyngton, near Tamworth, esq. The son of this John seems to have been Richard Swynfield, who, at the visitation of Glover, Somerset herald at arms in 1583, was resident here, allowed to bear a coat, and acknowledged to be of a gentleman's stock. This Richard I look upon to have had issue, besides other children, a daughter —, wife of — Dugdale, esq. of Clitherow, Lancashire, father of Sir William Dugdale, of Blythe

P p

hall,

hall, near Colehill, in the county of Warwick, the great antiquary.

I find too William Swynfen, of Swynfen, about the reign of king Edward VI. whether father or brother of the last Richard I cannot affirm, having never seen a genealogy of their line, who married Dorothy, daughter of James Noel, of Hillot, in the county of Stafford, esq. (of a great house in this county, who possessed Ellenhall, Raunton, Seighford, Mulnameese, and several other lordships). About * the reign of Elizabeth, Richard Swynfen's daughter Eleanor was bestowed in marriage to Walter Chetwynd, esq. who had issue by her William, and John, of Rudge, esq.

John Swynfen, of Swynfen, was a noted person in the reign of Charles I. the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, and in the reign of king Charles II. being a busy man in behalf of the parliamentarians under every administration. He was also of the committee of Stafford, and under that pretence harrassed the whole country, and even his own tenantry; he had also gained such an influence, that many affairs of the county were chiefly determined by him, and when Mrs. Snead was plundered at once of 200l. 150l. and upwards was put into his hands. In 1643, December 22, he, Thomas Crompton Pudsey, William Bendy, Henry Stone, and others of that committee, gave forth the warrant, signed in their own hands, for the demolishing of Stafford castle. Such was his behaviour till the Restoration. In the time of the long parliament, Ralph Snead, junior, and Richard Weston, esqrs. being elected burgessees of Stafford, they were outed in order to admit John Swynfen (usually named Ruffet-coat, from his affected plainness and pretences to sin-

* MSS penes. Dom. Chetwynd, vicecom.

cerity),

cerity), and Edward Leigh, of Rushall hall, esqrs. In 1679 he was active to raise the militia of London, Westminster, Southwark, and the Tower hamlets, of Middlesex, and Surrey, by an address to king Charles II. The next day, though Sunday, the House of Commons ordered a bill to be brought in (pursuant to their resolve fourteen days before) to disable the duke of York to inherit the imperial crown of England. This bill was ordered to be drawn up by Mr. Bennet, Mr. Trenchard, Mr. Hampden, Mr. Sacheverell, Mr. Swynfen, and others. On this occasion the historians * observe, that, “ by these proceedings of the Commons, it plainly appeared, that they only sought occasion to drive things to extremities.” We may observe also, that this John Swynfen, March 30, 1648 †, with Salway, and colonel Jephson, was sent by the parliament to lord Inchiquin, on suspicion of his falling off from their interest; their instructions were prepared by the committee at Derby house. In 1667 he paid to the quarterly assessment for the royal aid £.1. 14s. 6d. ob. and died, as I think, in the year 1682.

John, his son, succeeded him, and the same year was witness to an indenture between John Brown, of Thornes, gent. and Alexander Ward, of Shenstone park. Whether this John was in parliament I am not certain, but think he was, being in other respects of considerable note and esteem. In 1694 he is mentioned as paying to the poll-tax in Shenstone one pound one shilling, and ten shillings for horses. Mary Swynfen (probably his sister in law) paid one pound one shilling; Francis Swynfen, for himself, wife, and six children, one pound eight shillings; Mr. Swynfen also paid, for two grand-children and seven servants, nine shillings. This John had issue Richard Swynfen,

* Echard and Rapin.

† Whitlock.

and Samuel, if no more ; and three daughters, one of which was wife of ——— Smyth, of Long Whatton, Leicestershire, who had issue by her two sons, Swynfen Smyth, who went abroad, and died childless, and John, of Shepey, Leicestershire, who was concerned in the iron trade. Another daughter of John was Mary, wife of Thomas Willington, of Tamworth, gent. When this John Swynfen died I have not learnt, but find he had a brother, who married a niece of Matthew Ducie Moreton, lord Moreton.

Richard Swynfen succeeded, and was a member of the House of Commons, and gentleman of the privy chamber ; but, dying without issue in the reign of George II. the next was his brother and heir,

Samuel, a physician of skill and great practice at Lichfield, in 1714, and several years afterwards ; but removing from Swynfen hall to Birmingham, died there in 1736, leaving issue, among others, George, a clerk, chaplain to the governor of Fort St. George, in the East Indies, and John, who went supercargo of a ship in the East India Company's service ; both of them died abroad unmarried ; likewise several daughters, of which are Frances, living at Lichfield ; -----, another, wife of ----- Turton, esq. of Hargrave in Alrewas (descended of the younger brother of ----- Turton, of the Oak in West Bromwich), now or late of Stafford, by whom she hath children ; and at least two more, unmarried. Samuel, the physician, removed, as I said, to Birmingham ; and the family, being on the decline, sold Swynfen and the old family estates. The wife of this Samuel was Mabel, one of the two daughters and coheirs of ----- Fretwel, esq. of Hellaby, near York ; which Mabel survived her husband many years, dying aged in the reign of George III. Dorothy Fretwel, the other sister and coheir, married Richard Pyott,

Pyott, esq. of Strethay hall, near Lichfield, and had issue by him a daughter -----, wife of ----- Johnson, counsellor at law, of York city, who had issue by her a son Richard, who died issueless; and a daughter, wife of Sir John Heydon, of Yorkshire.

Some years before the death of Richard Swynfen, esq. elder brother of Samuel, was living, in the parish of Shenstone, a person named Samuel Swynfen, who, being poor, claimed to be a relation; but this was not admitted, as he gave no interesting or clear proofs. Going afterwards to London, he became servant to a Hamburgh merchant; and, being a person of capacity and fidelity, the merchant affording him also, with a small stock, opportunities of raising a fortune, through the blessing of Providence, he acquired a considerable one, and then purchased the family seat and estate of Swynfield or Swynfen of the physician aforesaid. This person I take to be the same who is named Samuel Swynfen, fishmonger, of London; and, in June, 1736, paid the usual fine to avoid serving the office of sheriff for that city. At his death he left a large fortune to Thomas Princeps, of Croxall, Staffordshire, son of —— Princeps, who married his sister, and by whom he had also issue a daughter ——, wife of —— Bloomer, of Coleman hill, near Hales Owen, now an attorney at Birmingham, by whom she hath children.

Thomas Princeps hath by ——, daughter of —— Nuthal, of Birmingham, Thomas, and others. But Samuel Grundy, sister's son of Samuel Swynfen, of ——, was the principal heir.

Samuel Grundy, by obligation of his uncle's will, took the name and arms of Swynfen by act of parliament. This gentleman

tleman lived in a close manner, rather as a farmer. With money left for his use in the funds, in order to purchase estates in Staffordshire, and his own savings, he had in his hands many capital mansions at one time, with several manors, *viz.* Oxley, one mile from Wolverhampton, purchased of — Wroughton, gent. who had married his sister — Grundy, of Appleby, Leicestershire, remarried to Samuel Hufkyns, in whose tenure it lately was. Samuel Swynfen rebuilt the mansion of this Oxley. I observe, that it was one of the eighty-six lordships bestowed by king William I. upon William Fitz Aufculph, the first Norman baron of Dudley. Elm-hurst hall and manor, near Lichfield, bought of Sir Theophilus Byddulph, baronet; Fisherwick, near Lichfield, purchased of the earl of Massarene, sold by Samuel Hill, of Shentone park, esq. who leaving it to his nephew, Samuel Egerton, of Tatton park, esq. it passed again by purchase to old Samuel Swynfen, who sold it to John Ludford, of Ansley, Warwickshire, esq. as guardian for Arthur earl of Donegal, the present owner; Swynfen, the family seat, which he rebuilt, and several others near Lichfield and Tamworth, or Hopewas. The said Samuel Swynfen, esq. died at Swynfen, October 2, 1770, a bachelor, aged about 70.

John Grundy, a brother's son of the last gentleman, was heir by virtue of the obligation and entail of Samuel Swynfen, of London, abovementioned, taking also the name and arms of the Swynfens. This John is about 25 years old, and, in 1769, married — daughter of — Abney, of Tamworth, esq. and hath issue.

Hill Hall in Swynfen is a considerable old-built mansion belonging to the Porter family, of whom we spoke in Wall, and, with the land thereto belonging, went from John Porter of Lichfield

field to Sheldon his son, and upon his decease to his sisters; they were by them let to Thomas Mallett, in whose tenure they remain (1773); and, I observe, they were in the Porters in 1667, for that year John Porter paid 5l. 8s. 5d. to the tenth quarterly payment assessed for the royal aid. Dated June 11.

To what we have noted of this hamlet, we may add, that Doctor Plott, in his *Natural History of Staffordshire**, mentions a way to clear old trees from moss, told him by Mr. Swynfen, of Swynfen, which sucks away the sap, and prevents them bearing fruit. This was to fire the moss in divers places with a whisp of straw; this, he said, would quickly run over the tree and clear it from such annoyance; it was usually done at Christmas, but particularly at Twelfth-tide.

In the hollow way between the hills on Weeford heath, as we pass between Swynfen and Cannal hall, the seat of Sir Robert Lawley, baronet, in the same parish, lie divers heaps of little opake pebbles, which tradition says † were laid where a bishop and his servants that were robbed and murdered were found; but the truth is, that bishop Vesey, then living at Sutton Colefield, employed poor people to carry them out of the road, to prevent horses tripping.

In the same village of Swynfen, or near it, is the most eminent barrow or low in those parts, called *Offlow*, which, though it be placed near Watling-street, seems not to be truly Roman, but is rather the tumulus or burial-place of some eminent Saxon.

Of these lows Dugdale ‡ says much in his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*; we have also spoken of them under Cats-hill, in Upper Stonall.

Swynfen's coat of arms was, party per pale, a chevron, Argent and Sable, 3 leopards heads of the first.

* Page 385.

† Plott's History, c. 4.

‡ In Knighlow hundred.

Thus,

Thus, as I proposed, I have given an account of Shenstone and its several hamlets. In the first district are Shenstone, Shenstone park, the Moss, Wood End, Radley Moor End, Aston, Fotherley, the Boffes, and Little Hay; nine districts. In the second division, Over Stonall, Nether Stonall, Lyndon, Thornes, Chesterfield, Wall, Hilton, and Swynfen, adding something of Aldershaw, as near Wall and Chesterfield, and much connected with them; nine districts.

Finished to this place, at Hales-owen, November 3, 1773.

Δόξα τῷ Θεῷ.

Of the Manor of SHENSTONE, and the Lords in Chief.

From a supposition that the foregoing account of the parish of Shenstone would be deficient, though given with all the accuracy possible, unless we could say something of its lords in chief, and those that held the manor under them; I resolved, if possible, to trace them out, and set them before the reader. This hath been the more difficult, for the reasons already given, the want of proper materials, and of records that should ascertain them; but such things as have occurred to me are given; and, as I have proposed to lay these things down in order, they may amuse or give others opportunity of explaining matters more fully.

It was the custom of the Saxons to set apart a quantity of land for the public service, which was rented out and accounted for in the department to which it belonged.

The crown, under the Saxon kings, had many of these lands, which were applied to the ordinary expence of government; so it seems to have been in shires, to bear the expence of the shire militia, and other exigences of the internal police of the shires. Whence it came, that at the dissolution of the old government, in 1070, of the shires, such a quantity of the land fell into the hands of the king, that he hardly knew how to dispose of it. This land he divided into manors and baronies, and gave them away to his Norman nobility, gentry, and clergy, who held them as fiefs of the crown, whence come our court barons, manor courts, and court leets. As to the internal policy of the country, he placed it in the hands of officers of his own making.

Manors, then, in substance, are as ancient as the Saxon times, though, perhaps, differing a little in some immaterial circumstances from those that exist at this day. *Manerium* comes à *manendo*, because the usual residence of the owner seems to have been a district of ground held by lords or great personages, who kept in their own hands so much land as was necessary for the use of their families, which were called *terræ dominicales*, or demesne lands, being occupied by the lord or *Dominus Manerii* and his servants. Manors were formerly named baronies, as they still are lordships; and each lord or baron was empowered to hold a domestic court, called the court baron, for redressing misdemeanors and nuisances within the manor, and for settling disputes of property between the tenants. This court is a separate ingredient of every manor; and, if the number of suitors

Q q

should

should so fail as not to leave a jury, or homage, *i. e.* two tenants at least, the manor would be lost.

All manors existing at this day must have existed by immemorial prescription, or at least ever since the 18th year of the reign of king Edward I. when the statute *Quia emptores* was made; for no new manors can have been erected since that time, because it is essential to a manor that there be tenants who hold of the lord; and that statute enacts, that for the future no subject shall create any new tenants to hold of him. Barons and lords of manors continued the same till the reign of king John.

Our history, law, and records, convince us, that not only the peers of the realm, or nobles as they are now called, but all persons who held their estates *in capite* from the crown, were antiently styled barons *, though they were only commoners according to the present acceptation of the word; nay, even great tenants to greater subjects. The word *baron* hath been so communicated, that all lords of manors have been from old time, and are at this day, called barons, as in their style of court barons.

Shenstone, or, as it is written in antient records, *Scertestane*, in the reign of William I. was the king's demesne land. I find, in the list of such places or manors as the king held, one named *Scelfitone*, but am not sure it was the same; neither can I say who had it before the Conquest, or till the great survey in the 20th year of the reign of king William I. at which time one Leonilde held it of the king, *in capite*, and most likely his descendants to the days of king John †, when it was holden of Henry D'Oyley's barony, which being a great house, and being

* Selden's Titles of Honour.

† History of Staffordshire.

barons of this kingdom, I shall venture to give some account of them. I have seen the addition to their Christian names, De Olgio and Ougi, from a town in France.

The family is of great antiquity and honourable; they were lords of Olgii, or Oyley, in Normandy, in the days of Edward the Confessor. The baron de Olgio had Robert, one of the adventurers with William his prince, after king of England, who, for his good services at the Conquest, was rewarded with two baronies, St. Walery's in Normandy, and Oxford (as Dugdale says by mistake), or rather Hook Norton, in Oxfordshire; yet I find that, after the king had taken Oxford, in order to secure it, he caused Robert D'Oyley to build a castle on the West side of the city, fortified with large trenches and ramparts. The same Robert also beautified and repaired the walls of the city, then much decayed. Oxford after this became cheerfully subject to the Norman government; the castle was erected in 1072, so that it does not seem clear that he was baron of Oxford, yet he is sometimes called constable of Oxford, and, 'as I think, the king's constable. At the time of the general survey, he was possessed of four lordships or manors in Berks, seven in Bucks, fourteen in Hertford, one in Bedford, three in Gloucester, three in Northampton, one in Warwickshire, twenty-eight in Oxfordshire; or, as another account has it, forty-two in Oxfordshire, having at the same time forty-two habitable houses in Oxford, and eight which then lay waste; as also eighty acres of meadow land adjoining to the walls, and a mill, valued at 16s. yearly. This lord is said to have built the bridge or bridges at Oxford, and with Roger de Eyverio (Ivery), a man very familiar with him, and his sworn brother in war, (who had also promised to share fortunes with him, on

which account it is said Robert gave him many estates, and, as some conjecture, the barony of St. Walery), to have founded, in 1074-5, the collegiate church of St. George in Oxford castle, for a dean and prebendaries, as most proper and agreeable to an university, and to have endowed it with lands, tythes, and revenues, out of their revenues ; as also the church of St Mary Magdalen, in the suburbs of Oxford, and three hides of land in Beaumont fields.

This lord, Robert D'Oyley, was a witness to the founding of Selby abbey, in Yorkshire, by king William I. and attested the charter of king William Rufus to the abbey of Eynsham in Oxfordshire. He died before the end of this reign, and was buried at Abingdon ; his wife was Algitha, daughter of Wygot, a noble Saxon, a person of great note in that age, lord of Wallingford (who entertained the king after the battle of Hastings), by whom he had issue an only daughter, Matilda. This lady, inheriting the valour of her ancestors, bravely defended the empress Maud in her castle of Wallingford. Her father gave her in marriage, 1084, to Milo Crispin, who had eighty-eight lordships in England at the survey, of which Hillingdon, in Middlesex, is the chief feat, and thirty-three in Oxfordshire. He dying in the 7th year of the reign of Henry I. the king gave her in marriage to Bryan Fitz Count, son of Baldwyn de Rivers, earl of Devonshire (by Lucie, daughter of Drue de Baladen, or Balun baron of Overwent and Abergavenny in Wales, sister and heir of Hamelyn de Baalun lord of Abergavenny), to whom she brought the lordship of Wallingford, and other large estates ; he had two sons that were lepers, but whether by Maud D'Oyley I am not certain. Robert D'Oyley, first baron of Hoke Norton and St. Valery's, dying, in 1090, without issue male (both he and his wife

wife being buried in Abingdon abbey, to which, as well as to St. Mary's church there, they were bountiful benefactors, and where, in 1084, king William, keeping his Easter, left his son Henry under the care of this Robert D'Oyley for his improvement), he was succeeded by

Nigel, his next brother, baron of Hoke Norton, 1090, who was the king's constable. He came into England with Robert aforesaid, and Gilbert, a younger brother, who had lands in Oxfordshire bestowed on him by the Conqueror. Nigel D'Oillei was witness to the charter of king Henry I. granting privileges and lands to the abbey of Hyde near Winchester; also to the charter of the same king to Edwardston priory in Suffolk. When he died I have not learnt, but he left two sons, Robert, and Fulke who was buried at Erisham, or Eynsham, in 1126. The wife of Nigel is named lady Agnes.

Robert Fitz Nigel succeeded his father as lord high constable and baron of Hook Norton. He was a gallant man, and much esteemed by king Henry I. He is mentioned as a witness to that king's charters to St. Peter's hospital in York; to Pontefract priory; in 1133 to Cirencester abbey. He also gave eighteen denariats rent at Oxford, and twenty near that city, to the Knights Templars of St. John. In a catalogue of the lands belonging to those knights drawn up by John Stillingfleet in 1134, he, and Henry his son, are said to be donors of lands in Oxford and Gosford to those Templars. The same lord Robert was an evidence to the empress Maud's charters, to St. Fridewith's in Oxford, and to St. James's priory at Exeter, signed at Oxford. In 1138, he signed the charter of Sir Robert Gayte, founding Otteley, or Thame abbey, in Oxfordshire. He was also witness to John St. John's charter, giving lands to Godstow near Oxford; and, in the reign of king Stephen, he gave Lambey meadow

meadow to the same nunnery, one half of it being confirmed by that prince, and the other by the empress Maud, with a measure of corn yearly. He is likewise named as an evidence to the charter of king Stephen to the priory of Alcester in Warwickshire. His wife gave lands of her dowry in Weston to Thame abbey; to which is a witness Fulk D'Oyley. King Henry II. confirmed to the same religious house thirty-six acres in Weston, the gift of Robert himself, who also built St. Mary's church in Osney; and, during the siege of Oxford under the empress a new chapel called St. Thomas's, because they durst not go to St. George's. On the whole, he appears to have been a devout person, but still more are we confirmed in this opinion from his founding the abbey of Osney for regular canons of St. Augustin *, 1129, in the isle of Oseneia, formed by the Isis, near Oxford castle. To this abbey he gave many estates, and several churches, as Chadlington, Weston, Hook Norton, Claindon, Chesterton, and Seneston, or Shenstone; whence it appears, that this place was in the family in the reign of Henry I. and, by a second charter, he annexed to it lands in Foresthill, Burton, and both the Stanhales, or Stonhalls, in the parish of Shenstone, with all their rights and tenths. This same lord built and richly endowed the abbey of Miffenden, in Bucks, in the first year of the reign of king Stephen †. He was one of the witnesses to the charter of the king's laws; but, in the 6th year of the reign of king Stephen, when the empress Maud, attended by David king of Scotland, came with much triumph from Winchester to Oxford, he delivered up the castle to her. His wife was Editha, daughter of Forne, son of Sigewolfe lord Greystock, both great barons ‡, a lady highly esteemed by king Henry I. (having been

* Monasticon Angl.

† Dugdale.

‡ Speed.

his concubine, by whose procurement this lord married her; his issue were two sons, Henry and Gilbert; also a daughter named Editha. Robert Fitz Nigel baron D'Oyley, of Hook Norton, was buried at Eynsham abbey, near Oxford.

Henry, his eldest son, succeeded him, as also in the office of constable, and was sheriff of Oxfordshire from the third to the sixth year of Henry II. He is expressly said to have a castle in Shenstone, called Old fort, and to have given or confirmed the manor of the Mofse in Shenstone to the abbey of Osney, with a certain part of his manor of Shenstone called Stanhall, which Hugh de Twyne, who held it and other lordships of him by military service, had formerly bestowed on the canons of Osney. This Henry D'Oyley is said to have passed away the manor to the family of Bray, and to have confirmed * to Radulph de Bray, chaplain to king William Rufus, the lands held under him by the said Ralph's father; but here must be a mistake. Either Ralph might be chaplain to king Henry II. or some of Henry D'Oyley's ancestors might grant it to the family of Bray, in the latter end of the reign of king William I. or William Rufus, which is not improbable, if this manor was granted soon after the great survey taken by William I. to Robert or Nigel, predecessors of Henry lord D'Oyley. It seems clear, however, that the D'Oyleys continued lords in chief, or lords of the fee, as we shall note hereafter. This Henry was witness to the charter given by king Henry II. to the priory of Plympton, in Devonshire. In the 12th year of the reign of Henry II. upon an assentment † of the aid for marrying the king's daughter, he certified his knight's fee to be thirty-two and a third part of the old feoffment, and one and a half, with a twentieth part of the new feoffment; for

* See Wilkes's papers.

† Dugdale.

which

which fees he paid 21l. 11s. 1d. In the 14th year of the reign of Henry II. the other twenty one shillings for those *de novo*, being then in arrear. In this same reign Gervase Paganel, baron of Dudley castle, certified to the king, that Henry D'Oyli held one knight's fee under him, for which the same lord Gervase owed scutage, or military service; and Robert baron Stafford certified at the same time, that Henry D'Oyley held three knights fees of him, which were held under Henry D'Oyley by Walter Fitz Tywa, Ralph Fitz Roger, and Ralph, each one; where these fees were I cannot be certain; but I find that about this time the D'Oyleys had large possessions in Gnosall, Conley, and Raunton, in Staffordshire. Henry D'Oyley was buried in 1163, at Osney abbey. His wife was Maud, or Margery, daughter of lord Humphry de Rohun, with whom he had the barony of Braenham*; by her he had five children, Henry and Robert; Margery, at length heir to the family, a daughter, wife to Maurice Gaunt; and a third daughter, wife to Thomas† lord of Daventry.

Henry, the eldest son, was the fifth baron D'Oyley, and constable of England. He, as his father had done, confirmed to the canons of Osney the lands before mentioned lying in Shenstone; and it seems probable, that this man passed away the manor of Shenstone to the Brays; to confirm this, certain papers in my possession say the last Henry D'Oyley was the person, yet it is certain, that the earl of Warwick was the lord, or superior lord, in the 20th year of the reign of Henry III. as heir to the D'Oyleys. Dugdale says, this lord dying without issue, the inheritance of his estates devolved to his two sisters. Another account given is, that he married two wives, Sybil and Maud (who, surviving him, was remarried to the great baron William de

* Dugdale.

† Baronetage.

Cantelupe, sheriff of Warwick, Leicester, Worcester, and Hereford; governor of Wilton and Hereford castles, in the reign of king John, yet afterwards joined the barons), and had issue an only daughter, Maud, sole heir to her father, but she died young, and unmarried; that he went with king Richard I. into Judea, and died in Austria, 1192, and was buried there, though it is said elsewhere *, that he lived till the year 1232.

Robert, his brother, was the next baron, and constable of England, sheriff of Oxfordshire in the reign of king Richard I. and one of the barons † that took up arms for the liberties of England against king John. He died about the end of the year 1232 (16 Henry III.), without issue. His two sisters were found to be his heirs, the eldest of which, Margery, carried part of the family estates to Henry de Newburgh de Bellamont earl of Warwick, her husband, who, by her had issue Thomas, earl of Warwick, and Margery; which Thomas, on the death of his uncle Robert, had livery of his lands (17 Henry III.) doing his homage, and paying to the king 100*l.* for his relief, with two palfries. He died in 1242 (26 Henry III.), issueless, possessed of Shentone, where, in the 20th year of the reign of Henry III. he gave licence for a park to be made, to which is added, that the said manor was held of him.

Margery, his sister and heir, married to John Marshal, brother to William earl of Pembroke, who, by favour of king Henry III. was earl of Warwick, but died about half a year after Thomas earl of Warwick, his brother in law. She married, after his death, and by favour of Henry III. to John de Placetis, a native of Poictou; also, by permission of the king, earl of Warwick, but had no issue by either of them; she was living in

* Memoirs of Osney.

† Also an assistant to the 25.

the 34th year of the reign of Henry III. but we find not the time of her decease. It is remarked, however, that Hugh, his son, by Christian de Sandford, his former wife, succeeded in the barony of Hoke Norton, and, in the 48th year of the reign of Henry III. paid 100l. relief for that and other estates of the D'Oyleys, whose son Hugh was summoned as a baron in the 25th year of the reign of Edward I.

We note farther of the family, that the offices and honours went with Margery D'Oyley as aforefaid; but Robert, son of Gilbert D'Oyley, succeeded in blood, of which line came the two families of Shottesham, in Norfolk, and of Chislehampton, Oxfordshire, created baronets by king Charles II.

Arms of the D'Oylies; Or, 2 bendlets, Azure.

Of this great family we observe, that they founded the abbeys of Osney, and Miffenden, Bucks, and were great benefactors to the religious at Abingdon, Eynsham, Godstow, Thame, and many others, both in England and France; they also built the bridge or bridges at Oxford, and the castle, of which they were castellans, or constables, till deprived by king Stephen.

The manor seems to have continued in the earls of Warwick, but whether by purchase of the other heirs descended of Johanna, wife of Reginald de Valletortâ, sister and coheir with Margery D'Oyley, or by any other way, I am not certain; yet I have seen an account, that William Maledoctus (Mauduit) earl of Warwick, possessed it in 1263 (47 Henry III.), and after him William de Bello Campo (Beauchamp), earl of Warwick, in right of Isabel his wife, sister of the late earl, or rather heir to that earl; for, though he and his wife survived, and were heirs, as we may express it, to the earldom, they had not the title. This earl died in the 26th year of the reign of Edward I.

Guy

Guy de Beauchamp earl of Warwick was son and heir of William, in whose line we suppose Shenstone was till the death of Henry Beauchamp duke of Warwick, and king of the Isle of Wight, being so crowned by the king's own hands. His death happened at the age of 22, in 1445 (23 Henry VI.).

Anne, his only child, by Cecily his wife, daughter of Richard Nevil earl of Salisbury, was his heir. She died January 1449, aged 6.

The same year Richard Nevil, called *Make-king*, was earl of Warwick, his claim being by his wife, sister of Henry duke of Warwick aforesaid. He was slain, with John Nevil marquis of Montague, his brother, at the battle of Barnet, 1471, by king Edward IV. Being attainted, his estates were settled upon Isabel and Anne, his daughters, then married to George duke of Clarence and Richard duke of Gloucester, brothers of Edward IV. amongst which are named Sutton Colefield and Yardley, near Birmingham; Walsall, Perry Bar, Patingham, and our manor of Shenstone, in the county of Stafford. The countess, his wife, underwent great distress, and was obliged to take sanctuary in the abbey of Beaulieu, Hants, where she continued for a long time in a mean condition, but thence privately got into the North, where she was in great straits. Which of the daughters had Shenstone we do not find; but king Henry VII. in the third year of his reign, having a mind to the estates of the late earl (his daughters being both dead), by a new act of parliament annulled the former, as against all reason, conscience, and course of nature, and contrary to the laws of God and man; and, in consideration of the true and faithful service and allegiance borne by Anne, countess of Warwick, relict of the late Richard Nevil earl thereof to king Henry VI. as also that she never gave cause to a disinherison, restored unto her the pos-

feſſion of 115 lordſhips, of which Shenſtone was one, with power to alienate the ſame, or any part thereof; but, like himſelf, with little purpoſe that ſhe ſhould enjoy them, for it appears, that the ſame year, bearing date December 13, and a fine thereupon, ſhe conveyed them wholly to the king, entailing them with the iſles of Jerſey, Sarke, Guernſey, and Alderney, upon the iſſue male of his body, with remainder to herſelf and her heirs.

Elſewhere it appears, that king Richard III. kept her in priſon during his life, and that ſhe was living in the 5th year of the reign of Henry VII. and then had Sutton Colefield allowed for her ſupport. In what year ſhe died is not ſaid.

The manor is ſaid to have paſſed next to a branch of the Nevils lords Latimer; and Thomas Nevil is mentioned to poſſeſs it, and to have been high ſheriff for the county of Stafford in the 2d year of the reign of Henry VIII. as I formerly noted, ſeated at Shenſtone park. In my opinion he was not the lord of the manor, but might have acted as an agent or deputy for the great earl of Warwick, his daughter Anne, who died aged fix, counteſs of Warwick, or his relict aforeſaid; or herein might ſerve king Henry VII. and Henry VIII.

In the reign of Edward VI. that prince granted it to that great ſubject, John duke of Northumberland, earl of Warwick, marſhal of England, lord high chamberlain, and lord admiral, viſcount Liſle of Kingſtone Liſle, baron of Somery, Baſſet de Drayton, and Tyes baron Dudley of Dudley caſtle, knight of the garter, general warden of the North, and warden of all the marſhes towards Scotland; this, with other eſtates, he forfeited, and was attainted, and beheaded, in the firſt year of the reign of queen Mary I.

Queen

Queen Elizabeth granted it to Ambrose Dudley, surnamed the Good earl of Warwick; and, in the 22d year of the reign of that queen he was in possession of it. He was the eldest surviving son of John duke of Northumberland, as above, and brother to Robert earl of Leicester, the great favourite of queen Elizabeth. This Ambrose died February 21, 1589 (32 Eliz.). Anne, his widow, daughter of Francis Russell earl of Bedford, afterwards possessed the manor of Shenstone, as appeared on a view of frankpledge of the court baron of the most noble lady Anne countess of Warwick, widow, late wife of the most noble Ambrose earl of Warwick, on the 7th of October, in the 33d year of the lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England, France, and Ireland, queen, defender of the faith, before Robert Sheldon, gent. deputy of Edward Hake, esq, chief seneschal to the said countess, and is thus enrolled: "To this court came Nicolas Collins in his own proper person, and gave up a cottage or tenement, and a garden, with other premises, in which the said Nicolas now dwells, situate, lying, and being, in Shenstone parish, with intention that the same might be passed over to Thomas Collins, son of the said Nicolas, which the said Robert Sheldon passed over to Thomas, that he might have and hold the same premises to him and his heirs according to the custom of the said manor, paying to the countess and her heirs yearly 16d. of lawful money of England, and doing proper suit and service, &c." Signed R. Sheldon.

On the parchment in which the said conveyance is made, is inscribed, "The manor of Shenstone cum membris." The countess was living November 19, 1592.

Sir Robert Dudley, son of Robert earl of Leicester, was heir to Ambrose his uncle, earl of Warwick, and enjoyed many of the family estates. In the reign of James I. he claimed the earl-

doms of Warwick and Leicester ; but, being ill treated, he left the kingdom. He was afterwards recalled, but, not returning, his estates were all seized, and vested in the crown during his natural life, by the statute of Fugitives. In 1620, he was created a duke of the Roman empire by the emperor Ferdinand II. and was called duke of Northumberland in foreign parts. His lady also was by king Charles I. created duchess of Dudley for her life, bearing date at Oxford, May 23, in the 20th year of his reign. She died January 22, 1668-9, aged 90. This great and able man died in September, 1549, aged '66.

Shenstone, and other the estates of Sir Robert Dudley, being in the crown, king Charles I. granted that of Shenstone to one Balmerino*, a Scotsman, who sold the park as before described, to — Lake and Alexander Ward, and the feigniory, with Thornes, a member thereof, to Rowland Fryth, a master in chancery, whose great grandson passed it to — Smyth, belonging to the same court.

In respect of this, I should imagine Balmerino was only the title of this Scotsman who possessed Shenstone, his real name being — Elphinstone, baron Balmerino, ancestor of Arthur lord Balmerino, beheaded for rebellion in the reign of George II. I am the rather induced to this, because one Elphinstone is mentioned as an attendant on king Charles I. 1628, whose father, Sir James, was so created in 1604; and also seeing the older inhabitants of Shenstone have a tradition, that the manor was given by king Charles I. to a Scots lord. After all, my sentiments are, that the great fee, or right *in capite* of the manor, continued in the crown, and was so granted to Balmerino.

* Wilkes's papers.

Of the Manor of SHENSTONE, and the lesser Lords of it.

Shenstone, or *Scerteſlan*, was in the hands of William the Conqueror, and, in the 20th year of his reign, was held of him by one Leonilde, whom I look upon to have been the owner of it under Edward the Confessor, in part from his name, which seems to be of Saxon derivation. How long he or his family possessed it is not said, but a noted antiquary * tells us, that in king John's reign it was holden of Henry D'Oyley's barony ; and, in the reign of Henry III. when Henry, first earl of Warwick, had married Margery, sister and heir of Henry D'Oyley, it was holden of him ; afterwards of Thomas earl of Warwick his son, by Robert de Grendon, by the sixth part of a knight's fee *de veteri feoffmento*, who had issue Roger, father of Ralph ; and that one of the family held it till he forfeited it, or rather yielded it for the redemption of his hand, which should have been cut off for striking in the court.

This account hath its errors, and is very deficient ; for, it was not Henry first earl of Warwick that married Margery D'Oyley, but the sixth earl who married her, who yet was not the heir, but the coheir and sister of Henry D'Oyley the fourth baron, and of Robert the fifth baron, being the children of Henry the third lord D'Oyley. The sisters and coheirs were Alicia, and Johanna,

* Erdeswicke.

wife of Reginald de Valletortâ, and, as the family descent has it, of Thomas lord of Daventry. Alicia was wife of Maurice de Gaunt, ancestor of, or of the same families with the earls of Lincoln of that name, and the earls of Berkley.

Robert de Grendon might hold Shenstone, as Erdeswicke says, of Thomas earl of Warwick, but he hath taken no notice of a family that had possession of it before the Grendons, or how they came owners of it. This was the *Brays*.

Tanetine de Brai seems to have had it, probably, by marrying Leonilde's daughter and heir, which Tanetine, as I think, came in with king William I. and so held it as of lord D'Oyley's fee. He had issue William, and Ralph de Bray, chaplain to king William Rufus; to him Henry D'Oyley, the constable to the king, granted the lands that Tanetine de Brai, his father, held here. This family * had the manor of Shenstone, and had their residence in the place. William de Bray, most likely heir to Ralph, the king's chaplain, had issue a daughter Avicia. To this man Henry lord D'Oyley granted or confirmed the manor and his lands at Shenstone; for his soul, and that of his family. The nuns of Polesworth found two priests, who were to celebrate divine service, and to offer masses for their health, and for all the faithful deceased. We find many of the name of Brai, as William de Brai, who was witness to a charter of the Conqueror to Battle abbey; and Milo de Brai, a benefactor to the abbey of Eye in Suffolk; but we are not certain they were related to Tanetine. The husband of Avicia, daughter and heir to William de Bray abovesaid, was Sir Robert de Grendon, son of Richard, son of Roger (in the reign of king Stephen), who took the surname from the manor of that name in Warwickshire, and

* Wilkes's papers.

was therein enfeoffed by — Camville, who had it from Henry de Ferrers, or his son, being, as I suppose, the son of Thurstan of that place, in the reign of king William I. Sir Robert de Grendon, about the 20th year of the reign of Henry III. obtained, from Thomas de Beaumont earl of Warwick, licence to make a park at Shenstone, provided he made such a fence here that his forest of Sutton should receive no damage from it. If this were not Sir Robert, son of the aforesaid Sir Robert and Avice de Bray, who, in right of his mother, and as heir to his grandfather William de Bray, became possessed of Shenstone, a fair lordship in Staffordshire. This was a considerable person, being a justice of assize in the 34th year of the reign of Henry III. sheriff of the counties of Salop, Bruges (Bridgenorth), and Ellesmere *, at which time he gave one hundred shillings for a charter of free warren in his lands. In the 33d year of Henry III. he adhered to the barons, but soon after to the king. He was contracted in marriage to Joan le Boteler, but did not receive her; and next married Emma, daughter to William Basset, of Sapecote, of the noble family there. He was a benefactor to the nuns of Polesworth. His issue were Sir Ralph, John, and Alice, wife of John de Clinton.

Sir Ralph de Grendon was one of the justices for the gaol delivery at Warwick in the 2d year of the reign of Edward I. lord of the manors of Shenstone, Grendon, &c. He had disputes with Geoffrey de Camville about the services due for the latter manor, but, in the 4th year of Edward III. they came to an agreement, of which Dugdale † treats farther. In the 31st year of the reign of Edward I. he confirmed to the nuns of Polesworth the grants of his ancestors, and to the chapel of Hoo

* Dugdale's Warwickshire.

† See Antiquities of Warwickshire.

belonging to them the lands bestowed for the support of two priests. Unless this be meant of Sir Ralph, his son and heir, one of whom was summoned to parliament as a baron in the 28th, 32d, and 33d years of the reign of Edward I. but not after; this, I suppose, was Ralph the father, who died in the 5th year of Edward III. He had two wives; 1. Joan, cousin to the bishop of Bath, by whom he had Sir Ralph aforesaid; 2. Alice de Clinton, by whom he had issue Margaret, wife of John de Freeford; Alice, of Sir Philip de Chetwynd, and Joan, of Sir Roger de Chetwynd. Sir Ralph, the younger, had issue Robert, and Johanna, wife of John de Rochford, who had issue Sir Ralph de Rochford, father of Margery, his heir, in the 8th year of the reign of Richard II.

Robert was a man but of weak understanding, of which Sir Philip de Chetwynd, with John de Freeford, who had married his aunts, taking advantage, entered upon his estates, under pretence of their wives right by virtue of an entail made in the 27th year of the reign of Edward I. and of Alice de Clinton, their mother, having a joint estate with her husband in all his lands. Robert thus pressed, and yet rightly advised by some friends, who clearly discerned that Robert would be overborne, applied for assistance to Henry Tortcol (a potent man at that time), duke of Lancaster, yielding unto him the whole manor of Shenstone, to hold for term of his life, or the longer liver of them, conditionally that he would protect him in the possession of Grendon, and his lands at Copshul, Dordon, &c. This being performed, Robert so prevailed, that the several parties * quitted their interest to him and his heirs in the 17th and 19th of Edward III. and, dying without issue in the 23d year of the

* Lodge in Chetwynd.

reign of Edward III. his lands descended to Sir Ralph Rochford, his nephew, who entailed them upon his issue by Joan, daughter of Sir Hugh Meynel, with remainder to his three sisters successively; then to Sir Richard Stafford and his heirs; according to which entail Shenstone and Grendon continued for divers years, until at length, Sir Ralf Rochford being dead, the said Joan his wife married again to Hugh de Asheby, with whom Sir William Chetwynd making an accord *, became possessed of a part of the estates, having, in the 39th year of the reign of Edward III. compounded with Isabel, the widow of John de Rochford, for her title and dower therein, formerly granted to her by Sir Ralph Rochford, her son-in-law.

Grendon's arms were, Argent, 2 chevrons, Gules.

Sir *Roger L'Estrange* died † seized of the manor of Shenstone, in the first year of the reign of Richard II. but how it came to him is not said; probably by marrying to one of the family of Rochford.

I find that *Henry de Harcourt* had lands in Shenstone, Alrewith, and Barr, all which he passed away to Alice de Trumwyn, dated at Alrewith, by deed, in the 10th year of the reign of Edward II. which Alice was wife of Sir William Trumwyn, of Sandon and Hardwic, Staffordshire, where she had her dowry in part, being a widow in the 24th year of the reign of Edward I. Part of her lands she passed over to Roger Trumwyne. Where the possessions lay in the parish of Shenstone I cannot learn, nor whether they were any of the lesser manors therein.

Harcourt's seal annexed bears Barry of six, in a chief a label of three points.

* Antiquities of Warwickshire.

† Kennet. Wilkes's papers.

The manor came afterwards to the *Hugfords*, a good family of Hugeford in Salop, of long standing, and of Emfcote, in Warwickshire, where we meet with Robert Hugford, who, by Joyce his wife, had issue Thomas, who, by —, had John and Thomas, of Prinfthorp. How long the family had it I cannot find; but this John had it, as I conjecture, in the reign of Henry VI. He died in the first year of the reign of Henry VII. seized of it, and left issue three daughters; Joan, wife of Humphry Beaufo; Alice, of Richard Cotes; and Anne, of Gerard Danet. Which possessed Shenstone I know not, but a partition was made of his manors of Wolstone, Merfton, Wapenbury, Eyethorpe, Badfley Clinton, Wolfthorpe, in Warwickshire, and other estates. On the 26th of November, in the first year of Henry VII. on an inquisition, it was found, that George Stanley lord Strange received the profits of it. Most likely Robert aforefaid purchased it, who, in the reign of Richard II. was receiver general to Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick; and, in the 5th year of the reign of Henry IV. member for Warwickshire. Thomas Hugford * was in the same capacity under Richard and Henry Beauchamp earls of Warwick in the reign of Henry VI. also constable of Warwick castle. John was steward to Richard Nevil earl of Warwick, and his constable; his fortune was greatly encreased by marrying Margaret, daughter and heir of Nicolas Methley.

King Charles I. bestowed it upon a Scotsman, as aforefaid, who speedily disposed of it to *Rowland Fryth*, esq. or, as I should suppose, jointly to *Edward Morton*, of Engleton, and this Rowland; for, Thomas Moreton, and William Fryth, of

* Thomas Nevil, esq. of Shenstone Park, is called lord of the manor in the 2d year of the reign of Henry VIII; but I refer the reader to the account of the greater lords, p. 296.

Murival, January 10, in the 3d year of the reign of Charles I. as lords of the manor, freed a messuage and lands at Footherley, the estate of J. Adams.

Of the Moretons I find Thomas, who by Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Moreton, of Engleton, esq. had issue Richard, 2. Thomas, 3. Edward, 4. Robert, and six daughters. Richard died in 1634; Thomas died in 1662; and their mother in 1664; but Thomas left issue Thomas, who died in 1710, leaving Thomas and Edward. Edward, the third son, who was (or acted as joint) lord with William Fryth, by Mary, daughter of — Yates, of London, gent. left a son Thomas. Robert died in 1676. Probably the Moretons sold their shares to the Fryths. A larger account of this family is given in Aston hamlet.

The next possessors of the manor were the Fryths, of whom we spoke under Thornes in Over Stonall.

We meet with the name in the parish register in 1580; for, in that year was baptized Ellen Fryth. I should imagine the family had their residence here, and were of good account in the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII. about which time Edward Fryth married Alice, daughter of — Jolliffe, esq. of Thornes.

In 1583 was a visitation of the heralds at arms, at which time Thomas Fryth, of Thornes hall in Shenstone parish, was declared to be one of the persons who had presumptuously, and without good grounds or authority, usurped the name and title of a gentleman, contrary to all right and the most antient custom of this land, and the usage of the law of arms, and was admonished no more to take upon him any such title, upon such farther pains and peril as by the earl marshal of England is to be inflicted; the sheriffs and clerks of the assizes, and of the peace, were also admonished to forbear for time to come to call him by the name or title of *Esquire*, or *Gentleman*. This said Thomas Fryth.

Fryth, making no proper proof of his gentry, bearing no proper arms, was disclaimed by found of trumpet at Lichfield, Wednesday, August 14, 1583. Signed by Glover, Somersfet herald, marshal and deputy to Norroy king at arms, and the commissioners attending. Arms were, in 1583, allowed him. This Thomas had issue, as I suppose, Rowland, William, two sons named Thomas, who died infants, a third Thomas (living in 1599, and that year buried a daughter Alice), Edward, who died in 1587, Alice, Eleanor, &c. by Elizabeth his wife, who died in 1608. William, called lord of the manor, I look upon as an agent for his father or brother Rowland. In order to reconcile the antiquaries, and yet I suppose such concession has its difficulties, the words of one are, “one Balmirino *, a Scotsman, sold the feigniory of Shenstone, and Thornes, a member thereof, to Rowland Fryth, a clerk in chancery, whose grandson, Rowland, sold it to — Smyth, belonging to the said court.” The other † says, “The king in this last age gave it to a Scotsman, who sold Shenstone park to — Lake, esq. and Alexander Ward, of Lichfield, who have each of them seats there. The feigniory, and Thornes a member thereof, he sold to Rowland Fryth, a clerk in chancery, who made it his seat, and dying left it to Edward his son, father of Rowland the herald. Edward lived upon it in 1660.”

I had lately in my possession several deeds relating to this family, in which I find that Rowland Fryth, of Thornes (I am not certain he had then the manor of Thornes or Shenstone), and Peter Alport, of Elmhurst, gent. had, by letters patent, a grant from king James, dated July 2, at Westminster, in the third year of his reign, all that his manor called by the name of the

* Wilkes's Collections.

† Sir Simon Degge.

Moss house, in the county of Stafford, with its rights, members, appurtenances, ways, &c. in Shenstone, Over Stonall, Nether Stonall, and Thornes, or any of them to it belonging, late parcels of the possession of the dissolved monastery of Osney in Oxfordshire, to have and to hold the same manor, and to hold it of his manor of East Greenwich by fealty only, in free and common socage, and not in *capite*, nor by knight's service, yielding and paying yearly to the crown for the said manor and other premises, 9 s. 9 d. at the Feast of St. Michael, and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the exchequer, or to the bailiff or receiver of the premises for the time being in equal portions.

In the 8th year of the reign of James I. September 20, and in the 10th year of the same reign, part of the lands were passed to different persons in the parish, for whom Thomas Fryth, gent. and — Thornton, acted as their attornies, to which conveyance Thomas and William Fryth signed as evidences.

In the 8th year of the reign of James I. July 18, other parcels of the same abbey lands were conveyed away by Rowland Fryth and Peter Alport to John Hunt, of Nether Stonall, for the conveying of which, and to give feisin, were appointed as attornies John Persehouse, gent. and Robert Molesey.

In the 10th year of the reign of James I. Rowland Fryth was evidence to John Hunt's disposal of a part of the same abbey lands to *Rowland Ridding* of Lynne.

Rowland afore said seems to have been the purchaser of Shenstone manor, being, as I think, son of Thomas of Thornes (1583), as John probably was, who died in 1597.

William was certainly lord of the manor; for a deed I have seen says, William Fryth, of Murival, and Thomas Moreton, freed lands in the parish. If he were the eldest son of Rowland,
it

it may reconcile matters ; but then it will appear, that Sir Simon Degge and Dr. Wilkes have omitted to mention him.

William Fryth, of Murival, and Thomas Moreton, in the 3d year of the reign of Charles I. for a sum of money paid to Rowland Fryth of Thornes, gent. enfeoffed John and Alice Adams of certain lands, and freed them ; paying 12d. yearly, and one hen, upon the 10th of January yearly, and doing suit and service at the court baron of the said lords after Easter and Michaelmas.

William Fryth and Thomas Moreton, as joint lords, passed and enfranchised lands in Little Hay to John Thickbrome ; also to Thomas and Joyce Collins, of Little Hay ; which several evidences will suffice to shew that William Fryth was lord, or joint lord, of the manor.

Edward succeeded William his brother, and seems to have held the whole manor, unless we may except Aston Parva, where the Moretons had their seat. Edward is mentioned in a conveyance of William Wyatt, of Lichfield, passing lands to Edward Wyatt in 1647, and then signed as an evidence to another of the same family in 1654, to which also is witness Henry Fryth, but whether his brother or son is not expressed.

Edward Fryth, of Thornes, gent. and Grenada his wife, had issue Thomas, born in 1665, and, as I conjecture, had also Hugh (living in 1663, having a daughter born that year by Elizabeth his wife), Edward, Rowland, Charles, and Henry. Edward (the father probably) died in 1668.

Edward seems to have been the eldest surviving son, and to have been in possession of the manor in 1673. This man Dr. Plott mentions in his Natural History of Staffordshire, as giving him some accounts relating to Shenstone parish. At the same time we cannot but observe, that Charles Hinton, Walter Fowler,

ler, Edward Fryth, and Thomas Scott, are mentioned as lords of the manor (1664), and acting in that capacity in freeing lands and tenements, but to what parts they laid claim I have not learnt; yet am of opinion, that three of them were concerned only in the district of Aston, the feigniory as aforesaid being in the Fryths.

Mrs. Fryth is spoken of as residing at Lynne in 1667, and as paying 12s. 6d. *ob.* her quarterly levy to his majesty's aid. She was re-married to John Brown, of Footherley, gent. but had no issue by him, and died in 1695-6.

Rowland succeeded as lord of the manor, but whether as heir to his brother we cannot say, or to his father, owing to the pedigree being burnt by a farmer at Stonall, not knowing its value. This Rowland Fryth lived at Thornes hall, and was as aforesaid an agent here for William Fryth, of Murival, and Thomas Moreton, esqrs. in the 4th year of the reign of Charles I. In 1647, October 9, he and Edward Fryth were witnesses to a purchase of lands in the Old field by Thomas Sylvester. In 1682, he, John Swynfen, and others, witnessed a deed passing lands in Radley Moor to James Adams, and again signing another conveyance (as lord of the manor) from John Brown, of Thornes. April 7, 1682, he confirmed the agreement made by Edward, his father, about the partitions of Radley Moor; and at another time conveyed a part of it to the use of the poor. He also established his mother's gift of 50l. before taken notice of, for the poor widows of Stonall, and gave the handsome dial in Shennstone church-yard. His character * was, that "he was a man of great integrity, and remarkable for his fidelity to the king and church."

* See monument of John Gibbons, St. Mary's, Warwick.

Of this gentleman we find farther, that he had at least two brothers, Charles and Henry. Charles Fryth was collector of the land and window tax for the county of Stafford, for the due execution of which Rowland was security. The money received being, as was usual in those days, sent to London by a messenger who had often been entrusted with the government's money, he fled with his charge into France, and was no more heard of by the family. The crown officers then fell upon the security, who was obliged to make up the deficiency to a considerable amount. This greatly hurt Rowland, whose family was on the decline. After some time, matters being properly represented, by aid of friends, and some money paid in part of purchase, he had an office amongst the heralds at arms. Going to take possession of the place, he died in London, was brought to Shenstone, and interred in the church. Such is the information given me by several old people in the parish. The antiquary * names him "Rowland Fryth the herald;" adding no other circumstance, but that his father was Edward, son of Rowland, a clerk in chancery, who made Thorne hall his seat. Charles abovesaid is described to have been lame, and to have died before his brother Rowland. Of Henry we learn, that he was a tradesman of Wolverhampton, and that they had two sisters, one of which killed herself by drinking coffee to excess; the other, wife of James Hayes, a noted apothecary, father, by her, to James, who was of the same profession. I should have added, that Rowland, out of opposition to ——— Smyth, of Over Stonall, or the Harp inn, erected the Swan inn, just by, a handsome mansion, which, with other projects and losses, impaired his fortune, before decreasing; yet by the way we may remark, that the Harp inn

* Sir Simon Degge

has been some years shut up, and for seven years before unnoticed as formerly, and that the Swan is an elegant and reputable house, in the hands of James Penn.

Of Rowland we note, that he was distinguished for his attendance upon most funerals, in order to preserve the parish rights, and their claims to certain ways called Burial Roads, and for his kindness to all ranks of people. When he died I am not certain, but find him named as an active person in 1712. His wife was -----, daughter of ----- Whitwick, esq. of Farwel, near Lichfield; but I find no issue mentioned that I can affix to him. Yet it is observed, that Elizabeth, daughter of Rowland Fryth, of Thornes, gent. was wife of John Gibbons, descended from a genteel family in the county of Stafford, which John died in 1693, aged 67, and was buried at Warwick. Of this family was John Gibbons, of New hall, near Sutton Colefield, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who bought Wigginfil manor of Robert Pudsey, esq. held by the fourth of a knight's fee; and, in 1563, being possessed of the advowson of Sutton Colefield, presented thereto John Foden, clerk. John Gibbons, by Elizabeth his wife, had issue seven children, of which the only survivor was William Gibbons, M. D. Fellow of the College of Physicians, of London, who gave the crimson velvet pulpit cloth and cushion to Shenstone. A gentleman descended of the physician now lives at Sutton, and, as I think, is unmarried. I find too that Rowland Fryth had a daughter, Eleanor, wife of William Scott, of Barr, by whom she had issue Thomas, aged forty in 1663, and Edward, who seated himself at Aldrick. "Thomas* lived in a pretty feat, and was so agreeable as to be accounted the prince of yeomanry, continuing the old manner of house-keeping, in hospi-

* Antiquities of Staffordshire, written in the reign of Charles II.

talities to strangers, and relieving the poor; and as he was not sparing to himself in taking his recreation when his other affairs gave leave, so he was not ashamed to put his hand to the plough to encourage his servants; and, in truth, in these parts of England none were known to equal his yeoman-like method of living, but many, that took upon them to be more gentlemen, came very far behind him, both in estate and manners of living."

Now, as to these daughters, I must confess, that the first may have been the child of the last Rowland Fryth; but Eleanor, wife of Thomas le Scott, as he is called, must have been the sister of Edward, children of Rowland the elder.

Arms of Scott: Argent on a fess Gules cottised, Az. three lambs of the first, between three catharine wheels, Sable. Crest, a beacon fired.

A curious collector * says, "that Rowland Fryth sold the manor to — Smyth, belonging to the court of chancery." To this we can reply, that it was sold by his executors, of which Samuel Brown was one, then of Fotherley hall, brother to John of Thornes, who married Grenada, mother of the said Rowland Fryth, esq. and that the sale of it was in the reign of king George I.

Arms of the Fryths, of Thornes hall.

Sable on a chevron embattled Or, three annulets, Sable, between three poll axes, the blades Argent.

We add, though somewhat out of its place, that Rowland Fryth, and Edward his son, of Thornes, were sufferers for their loyalty to king Charles I. and were obliged to a composition with the sequestrators, at 270l.

* Dr. Wilkes.

In 1692, Rowland Fryth, his mother, wife of —— Brown, with six servants, paid to the poll tax.

Thomas Fryth, esq. died at New Windsor in 1733; but I cannot affirm that he was of the Thornes hall branch.

The manor was sold, as before said, by the executors of Rowland Fryth. Lord Paget bid 6000*l.* for it; but John Smyth purchased it for 6500*l.* in no degree then a good consideration. This John Smyth was one of the corporation of curfitors in the exchequer for the division of Warwickshire, Southampton, the city of Coventry, and town of Southampton, and was possessed of the manor of Wombon, in Staffordshire, estates at Whiston-crofs, Seafdon, Treasul Muchel, Bonnegal, Albrighton, &c. Dying unmarried in the reign of George II. he demised the manor of Shenstone, with those and other estates, to William Tenant, esq. a citizen of London, often mentioned in this treatise, and of Aston hall in Shenstone.

William Tenant, esq. lord of this manor, patron of St. Martyn's church in Birmingham, as heir to John Smyth, married ——, and hath issue one son, aged 21 in 1774, of the University of Oxford.

John Hodgetts, of Prestwood, esq. seems to have been the next heir in blood to John Smyth, for he came into possession of 300*l.* yearly, which the same John Smyth had articted to purchase near North Cleobury, in Salop, and for which William Tenant paid after the sudden decease of John Smyth, esq.

N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y.

The A I R.

The air of Shenstone is reckoned to be pure and wholesome to the natives and healthy persons, exceedingly agreeable, owing to the situation and an open country, generally speaking, clear of woods; for that is remarkably the case in respect of Cannock wood, the timber upon it having been cut down, as we think, some ages, and none since planted, but for pleasure or prospects. The village itself, Hilton, Over Stonall, Thornes, and some other parts of the parish, are situate on rising ground, and have, unquestionably, their advantages.

The Boffes, Lower Stonall, part of Lynne, Little Hay, part of Aston, the Park, the Moss, Footherley, and Chesterfield, have in a few years undergone several improvements, particularly from Samuel Hill, under the late Joseph Elde, and others; from John Rawlins, of Greenberry hill, and Thomas Adcock, of Lynne; so that, if the lands about them were in any former time unhealthy, which I never heard of, they are now so greatly changed for the better as to be both pleasant and desirable habitations; and some of the most elegant seats are built, where, if we may so express it, lands have been made, as at the Park,
Footherley,

Footherley, and the Moss. We must, however, acknowledge, that weak, consumptive, and asthmatic constitutions find Shenstone air too keen.

A proof that Shenstone is a wholesome situation arises from the longevity of its inhabitants, of whom we meet with Henry Lea, who died in 1660, aged 107; ——— Crispe, at 81 or 82; ——— Dickenfon, who died in January, 1767, aged about 92. The latter worked with the needle not long before she was taken hence, and walked tolerably well from Stonall to Shenstone, near four measured miles; widow James, of Chesterfield, buried at 89, in 1767; Joseph Tedd, buried in 1770, aged 83; widow Brifbourn, of Little Hay, who was upwards of 91 and six months in June, 1767, when I visited her; Sarah Ingram, buried in 1751, aged 81; but, above all, Susanna Southwell, mother to Joseph Jobbern's wife, of Wood-end, who survived to the age of 112, and just before her decease talked rationally, informing me with several transactions of near an hundred years date, to which she was an eye-witness.

To these I could add several people of great age living in the parish (August, 1774), but think it prudent to omit them.

Secondly, we note the W A T E R S of this Parish.

The largest is named the *Bourn* (a water springing out of the earth, and the brook issuing from it), rising in several streams on Colefield Chace, which uniting form a considerable lake, or pool, near Mill Green and Aston, bearing still the same appellation, and being within that part of the Colefield which belongs to Little Aston; thence it passes to Mill Green, where, with
other

other waters, it becomes useful for grinding of corn, afterwards goes on by Aston, and Aston forge, through the Moors to Foot-therley, thence towards the Holme, near Shenstone, dividing the parish into two parts.

The next considerable river is also termed the Bourn in general, though in different places it hath other names. It rises about that part of Cannoc wood towards Norton, called the Riddings, somewhat below Wilmore hollies, in several little springs, which are soon increased by a little water from the Hollies; thus, making a pretty current, it passes by Hamerwick, and below Wall, to Ogley Hay, and thence towards Hilton, where it is named the Cranbrook, having here a bridge over it, though it is commonly low in summer; afterwards to the Moors and Chesterfield, where it again is termed Chesterfield water; thence to the Ashcrofts, so to the Holme (a little isle formed from these brooks), where, after it hath been enlarged by the way with several streams, it unites with the river first named the Bourn. Becoming now a large water, it supplies Shenstone corn-mill, held by Thomas Woolley, and holds its course through the lands adjoining to Shenstone old hall, to Shenstone park, and by Thickbroom and Weeford heath, or park, to Weeford, where it gains the name of *Blackbrooke*, and has over it a large handsome stone bridge; thence it runs to the North side of Drayton Bassett Park, the seat of the lord viscount Weymouth, and near Fafely bridge falls into the Thame; at Tamworth, it receives the Ancre, and thence runs into the Trent by Hopways, Fisherwic, Haseler, Croxal, and Whichnovre.

Aston water rises in Cox's Moors, about a quarter of a mile from Mill Green, amidst some alder trees in several springs. These uniting a little way from their head afford a considerable stream, and join the larger Aston brook in its course from Aston
mill

mill to the forge, by which waters the pool there is in a good measure supplied for the working of iron oar.

The *Pen*, or *Penke*, a pretty rivulet, rises in Upper Stonall, in the lands of Noel Hill, esq. called the Spring Pieces, most delightfully bubbling out of the earth in ten or twelve different places, nearly together. It runs in its channel for six or seven hundred yards, above that part of the Stonall road that leads to Aldrich, and has in its way within that compass two small reservoirs. It continues its course upon the great road, but is several times diverted to water the neighbouring grounds, by which its strength is broken till winter, or rainy weather, when it greatly increases in spite of the farmer's endeavour, passes down Stonall through the lands named the Wallongs, down to the Wall heaths, then joins the *Quebb*.

The *Quebb* is a little water which rises near the Wall heath pieces, in the lands called Smith's marshes, and, uniting with the *Pen*, passes to Birchley farm, near Lynne and Owls hall, to the Bourn, or Footherley brook, by which time it becomes a large water, runs next to the Holme, and into Cranbrook by Shenstone mill, and to Blackbrooke.

The *Pen* is a most excellent water, and, being the only one of any consequence in Over Stonall, a dry and sandy soil must needs be most useful and agreeable. Indeed, there is a pool, termed Clay Pit pool, above this village, near the summit or the eminence on which was the castle or old fort, fed by some springs on the higher ground, which afforded an opportunity of moating round the castles, such a trench being yet visible. This rivulet runs on the side of the village opposite to the *Penke*, but in a wet season runs down the street-way, and joins the *Penke* in the Pease croft *, near

* Lands of William Tenant, esq.

the Swan inn. The Wallongs, beforementioned, were lands of the Hawes family, now of William Tenant, esq through which the Penk passes, as also through the town crofts, Cotgrave's upper, lower, and middle crofts, in the course we expressed.

Of *Druidsmere pool* we spoke in Upper Stonall, but what the noted Dr. Plott observes *, the notice it gives of a dearth by overflowing, we could hardly avoid mentioning; he adds too, that at other times it is nearly dry. This pool, or lake, was named of the Druids †, who were legislators of Gaul and Britain, held the doctrine of Pythagoras, and pretended to the converse of some deity, holding the doctrine of a future state of rewards and punishments. They were ministers of the sacred rites, initiated into, and presided in, the mysteries. They had their doctrine from Egypt, and celebrated the orgies of Bacchus. Their end and drift in initiation was to restore the soul to the state whence it was fallen, as its native seat of perfection.

Their moral precepts were, to revere the Gods, to offer fruit to them; to honour their parents, to forbear cruelty to animals, and to amend their lives. They had their smaller and greater mysteries, their external and internal doctrines, as being the genuine offspring of the Egyptian priests, who shared the government of the state. Over their mysteries they had a chief to keep matters orderly, and prevent mischief to the state.

As enough has been said of them, we proceed to observe, that another little water is found near Stonall, called *Tumbledown*, falling from land in or near the castles, which joins the Bourn at the Hogmoors, between Lynn and Fotherley.

* Natural History of Staffordshire, p. 228.

† Ibid. p. 286.

The *Mofs Lake* is the only water of note that we have not mentioned in this place, having remarked it in our account of the Mofs; yet we may add, that it might with little expence be made an additional beauty to the Mofs house, especially by a little alteration of the road, and taking part of the meadow opposite.

Thirdly, we speak of the SOIL and LAND.

Here we find good pasture both in the meadows and higher ground, which last is of such a nature as to be pleased and fertile with much rain, being of a dry sandy earth, producing, according to the pains bestowed upon it, plentiful crops of barley, oats, and some good wheat; but the parish is mostly noted for excellent barley, not hereby excluding other grain, as vetches, pease, &c. At the same time I have been a witness to lands, starved to all appearance, and starving the tenants for generations, being so well cultivated as to produce very even unexpected returns to the present possessor, of which I instance the castle lands, and particularly Shire Oak farm, but I must say, at a vast expence, even to the laying on earth upon stones, and beggary itself; so much can industry and a spirit of improvement avail. Nor by mentioning these lands do I mean to disregard the cultivation of many farmers who have notably distinguished themselves, but those I remark were bad as the dry and barren heath a few years since. They have all contributed to raise a sweet and feeding grass, both for cows and sheep. One important alteration hath been, the cultivation of turnips, and hoeing them, by which prudence and method thousands of sheep

have been fattened, and that so well known, as to cause an increase of tythes (1773) to Edward Harwood, the vicar. The corn lands too have returned greater and almost incredible sums to the present owner of the rectorial tenths, Noel Hill, esq. and have been improved accordingly (the same year); many people now paying double or treble more than was demanded antecedent to 1773.

Butter, and particularly excellent cheese, are made, and these in plenty through all parts of the parish, a convenience too for the payments of rents, which were also advanced generally by all the land-owners in 1773.

Marling is customary in some parts, but it is not equally good in all places; there is, however, excellent marle under the stone beds in the mines of Noel Hill, and John Dolphyn, on the side of Shenstone leading towards Swynfen, and adjoining to the Pindle fields, and on the Stonall side, which has been greatly serviceable in the improvements made.

Lime too has been a good article in improving and forcing crops of grain, but, though it be fetched only five or six miles, from Hay Head, Rushall, or Walsall, is a dear article, and yet seems absolutely requisite on the Shenstone lands. Lime, as some object, brought at 25s. the waggon load, by its heat producing a fermentation, makes a show for one or two crops, but afterwards is detrimental, especially if often repeated, as the barren calx left behind it is at best a useless load upon a good soil, if it does not contribute to canker the roots of whatever grows thereon. Experience opposes such objections; for, lime certainly lightens the earth, and from its fixed salts must be useful in vegetation, and is used not only here, but wherever it can be procured; indeed, it is often mixed with soil, or other manure, and is often turned, or till it becomes an excellent compost; and I have

have seen it spread upon grazing ground with good effect, so as to freshen and strengthen the useful food, enriching that, and killing the useless or noxious herb. As to the barren calx, it is easily removed, as other stones that incommode the ground.

A still greater improvement is the dung, and other manure, which is fetched in great quantities by the industrious farmers, from Lichfield and Walsall, and is frequently added to the compost beforementioned, and both together procure means and food to fatten sheep in abundance, oxen, and cows. Of the former the farmer will give thirty or thirty-five shillings to lay on turnep lands, and sell them out with advantage; of the latter, the late Joseph Elde fed many on the lands near Shenstone park, to an amazing size, which were commended as very good meat.

Mines there are of stone and clay, but no great quantity of either is got here. Half a mile from Shenstone village is a stone quarry; when first dug out, it is of a red cast, and soft; but, when exposed to the air, grows hard and durable, and no question in other instances we might find stone. Good clay is found in Shire Oaks farm, Lynn, Nether Stonall, and near Shenstone Hall, to which last belong some fields, called the Brick Kiln Pieces, where — Brandreth got the clay to build the hall. Marle is found in Lynne, Stonall, and the Boffes. Some conjecture coal might be found at Aston, and, indeed, so John Butler assured me, from the appearances of the water and other circumstances.

We can hardly avoid speaking of the Peat heath, though in some part of this county it comes under the article of fuel, or fire, especially in the Moorlands. Peat being described as a sort of stringy and bituminous earth, which lies under the uppermost turf in moorish boggy ground, and being dug out of holes called Peat pits, and cut into the size of bricks, they are set to dry,

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as in Oxfordshire, Cheshire, &c. being a fuel for the poor; but this is not the circumstance in this place.

The Peatmore is a large tract of marshy ground, containing in its present reckoning about six hundred acres, fourteen of which, that lay convenient, have some years been improved into tolerable good land, as I suppose has happened heretofore to the Darnhursts, or Darnelhursts, a spot of thirty acres belonging to the lord of the manor, held with the Greenbury hill farm, lying towards Footherley, on the extreme of the Peatmoor.

This Peatmoor hath undergone great alterations, being much drained by the present tenant, John Rawlins, who hath opened the old trenches, that are said to have been five yards deep, and made several large new ones very wide, and three yards deep, at a vast expence, notwithstanding he was eased by the gift of a considerable quantity of wood dug out of it, and used for cokes, or wood coal; he hath also made smaller cuts transversely, separated the moor into two parts, and planted such trees as are agreeable to the soil, which will not only be useful, and a fence, but give a more pleasing appearance to a wild and dreary heath, limiting which, on one side is a thick wood of twenty acres, full of timber, till a part was fallen a few years since, and now in a thriving state; but, being chiefly oaks, it is mostly encouraged for the under wood, being the property of William Tenant, esq.

We might here have spoken of various springs, under the second article of Natural History, but they are not valuable, on account of the ill quality they partake of in their passage, and seem only to increase the current of the Footherley brook.

In these moorish places are dug up a kind of fir trees, which, besides other uses, are often split into thin pieces, or spils, and
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are used on common occasions as candles, and, from their turpentine quality, give a good light.

But of all the accidents that ever befel the trunks of trees, there is none more unaccountable than their being found in different places buried under ground, as in the Peatmore, the land of Mr. Rowland Fryth, of Thornes, in an inland country, therefore many have supposed they were carried here by the deluge, which seems a very idle story, as then we should have had them in other valleys as well as where they are found. Besides, such as are met with without their roots appear either to have been burnt asunder near the ground, or are found with the mark of the axe still remaining upon them by which they were severed from their stools, which are found standing in many places in the same posture as when the trees stood upon them, which has prevailed with others, who are satisfied with this, to think that this Moiss wood (as they name it, from the moors or mosses in which it is buried) was originally beech or alder trees, that delight to grow in such moist places, which, being soaked so many years in a bituminous turf, may become at length so well impregnated, as to imitate fir both in smell and burning; which too are more agreeable to the sizes of those subterranean trees than firs are, there being few found above a foot diameter at the but end, whereas firs grow even to two yards diameter sometimes. To which may be replied, that one reason why these trees are found so may be, that all now found is only the heart of the tree, which was much bigger before the sap was consumed, which may also be the reason why they are found so long. A reason for their lying thus covered in inland countries is given, that, not being natives of England, the firs were planted, here by the Danes and people of Norway, who, getting possession of this country, endeavoured to make it as much like their own

own as they could, and planted these firs, which, after growing many years, either upon the massacre of that people under king Ethelred, or their final loss of dominion here after the death of king Hardicnute, that no memorial of them might remain, the trees they had planted there were cut down; and, as many of them as grew upon low moist lands, lying inconvenient for carrying away, were neglected, and in process of time were covered by alteration, those upon the hills and higher ground being long used. Farther, the low grounds, where they are now found, when they stood and flourished, in all probability were tolerably dry land; for, the trees whilst growing, notwithstanding the wet and moisture shot into the valleys then as at this time, continually spent it in their nourishment, and their as constant exhalations; but, when they were cut down, there being no way to expend it, the valleys at length grew into pools, the waters thereof being thickened with perpetual deterrations, or earth brought from the hills and higher grounds by showers in wet, and winds in dry weather, they came at last to be fens or mosses, thus covering the trees, which we take to be the origin of many of our mosses, though afterwards increased by new grass and sedge, annually growing upon the rottings of the old in the former year, and so onward. Such is Dr. Plott's account*.

This Peatmore, with the farm late Hardwick's, at the Boffes, on the extremities of the moor, with Greenbury Hill, the Whitages, a portion of land late ——— Dickenfon's, purchased by John Smyth, lord of this manor, and other premises to the amount of four hundred acres, or upwards, are in the tenure of John Rawlins, rented from March 25, 1772.

* History of Staffordshire, cap. 6.

In the morasses about Deeping, in Lincolnshire, are often dug up trunks of trees at two feet depth, such as firs and oaks, with their fruits, all at full perfection. This made the learned Dr. Shuckford think they had lain from the Flood, which he attempts to prove was in autumn.

As to the morasses in general, they seem to be a composition of leaves, feeds, flowers, stalks, roots of herbs, fruits, or shrubs, and, when become more close and ponderous, appear to be only a more perfect putrefaction; when it becomes black they are most bituminous and fittest for fuel. This seems to be nothing but the consummate putrefaction of the plants that grow on such places, as *Eleagnus*, *Ros Solis*, *Erica*, &c.

Ogley Hay, part of which is in Shenstone parish, in its whole circuit was very extensive, containing about two thousand seven hundred acres, bounded by lands called Bull moors, Hilton hamlet, the Stafford road, Catts hill, and Muckley corner. In the reign of queen Elizabeth it was granted to the family of lord Stafford, which passed it to the ancestor of lord Ducie Moreton, who sold it half freed * to several persons; at the same time we observe, that John Dolphyn, esq. had a twenty-fourth share separate from that so passed away. Edward Jackson, of Wall, gent, had two shares of the freehold, which he sold to Christopher Wood, of Norton, gent.

Dorothy, widow of — Quintyn, in the reign of Henry VIII. had a right of common pasture for all her estate, which passed to William Quintyn her son, in the reign of queen Elizabeth. I have seen an indenture, dated the 24th of May, in the 41st year of the reign of Elizabeth, between Edward Stanley, of Tonge, Salop, on the first part; Richard Jackson, of Clements

* Or in free copy.

inn, Middlesex, William Quyntyn, of Wall, Anne his wife, and Robert Quintyn his brother, on the second part; John Jackson, of Lichfield, tanner, and Thomas Turner of Kelmscote, Oxfordshire, on the third part; in which, for 200l. paid by William to Edward Stanley, and 50l. by Robert to the said Edward, Edward and Richard Jackson agreed to levy a fine to John Jackson and Thomas Turner, in a messuage and barns, with a pasture called Horse croft, also Lea field, a moor and dingle called Newland meadow, all in or near Wall; Newland Leycroft, Newland Leyfwood, with eighteen acres of arable land in Wall field, and common pasture on Ongley hay for all cattle, with all rights, late in the occupation of William Quintyn, of his father and mother; also a cottage, orchard, and garden, in Wall, held by William Langley, a field named Croft-a-green, a piece called Round hills, seven acres of arable land in Wall, with a meadow called Rakemore in Shenstone, held by Robert Quintyn, and common pasture on Ongley Hay; the fine to pass to Richard Jackson for life, next to William and Anne Quintyn his wife, remainder to William's heirs, remainder to Robert his brother, remainder to Thomas Webb and Margaret his wife, and her heirs, remainder to Roger Comerley, Anne his wife, and her heirs, the same to Anthony Spicer and his wife Elizabeth, the same to Edward Jackson, Isabel his wife, and heirs, remainder to Richard Sylvester, Dorothy his wife, and heirs, to Thomas Webb and Margaret his wife, and to William Quintyn's heirs for ever, reserving fealty, and a penny rent at Michaelmas for all services.

In another indenture other estates were passed from the afore-said Richard Jackson to Robert Quintyn, William his brother, Richard and Ellen Gibbons his wife, Anthony Spicer, and Elizabeth his wife, Roger Somerlay and Anne his wife, Edward Jackson

son and Ifabel his wife, Richard Sylvester and Dorothy his wife, Thomas Webb and Margaret his wife, and the heirs of Robert Quintyn for ever ; all confirmed by Edward Stanley, esq. or Sir George Vernon, knight. The chief rent and services were reserved to the lord of the fee, and the premises therein named were leased by Sir George Vernon to William Quintyn, deceased, son of William, Dorothy his wife, and William their son, for their lives ; Edward Stanley, esq. was then seised of Sir George Vernon's part, and both confirmed this deed. Dated at Tonge, his manor house, 1599. Witnesses John Lakyn, James Astley, John Chadwick and, John Jackson.

In 1666, in the 18th year of the reign of king Charles II. was passed an indenture between John Green, of Great Bloxwich, and Mary his wife, John Darleston, of Wiggington, and Anne his wife, and Elizabeth Quintyn of Wall, on the one part ; Richard Hinckley, of Lichfield, on the other ; expressing, that Thomas Martyn, of Lichfield, sold to Richard Scott, of Great Barr in Aldrich, for 99 years, lands in Ongley Hay, and others in the Leet field in Lichfield, called the Burrow Copp, held by Humphry Tew, of Lichfield, gent. and others, but lately by Thomas Quintyn of Wall ; and Richard Scott, in 1652, passed them, or his part, in 1658, to Thomas Martyn ; Thomas Quintyn passed his share to his three daughters, Mary, Anne, and Elizabeth, as proved by Thomas Quintyn, his son and executor. John Green and Mary his wife, John Darlaſton and Anne his wife, with Elizabeth their sister, discharged Richard Hinckley for 30l. who purchased the lands in the Leet field, paying 8d. yearly during the residue of the 99 years, viz. the land lying near the estate of Amon Perkyne, gent. and Sir Simon Weston, knight. To which deed were witnesses Zachary Babyngton, George Maſon, and Richard Baxter.

We now proceed to the account of Ogley aforefaid.

Fowke Huffey, gent. had eight ſhares ; — Worſey, of Ruſhall, one ; all which, and others, to the number of twenty-three ſhares, Chriſtopher Wood, of Norton, purchaſed ; John Dolphyn's yet remaining to his heirs.

The leafehold ſhares were in Huffey, Holland, and Huntbach, gents. and as chattels fold in chancery to Holland. Jane, relict of — Holland, paſſed them to Chriſtopher Wood for 200l. He paſſed them for 230l. to Thomas Price, of Goſcote near Walſall, who, within five years (about 1734), reſold them to the ſame Charles Wood for 305l. at which date were re-conveyed to him the two parts belonging to Edward Jackſon, for one hundred guineas. It has been obſerved, that the Hays of Staffordſhire were fold, as of Cannock wood, or the foreſt ; but this muſt ſurely be meant only of ſuch Hays as originally lay upon it. The earls of Uxbridge were ſuperior lords over the lands of Sir Edward Lyttelton, lord Aſton, and Sir William Wolſeley, in this neighbourhood, with Whittington and Whittington heath, Norton, Wyrley, and alſo of Harbourn, Smethwick, Huntington, and Cannock.

John Smyth, eſq. lord of Shenſtone, endeavoured to make Ogley Hay a free warren, and for that end began a ſuit at law with Charles Wood and John Worſey, of Ruſhal, gents. but was obliged to give up the point.

Charles Wood, often mentioned, and Henry his brother, of Wolverhampton, with five daughters, one of whom was wife of the reverend Edward Tonge, of Aldrich ; another of — Warwick, of Manchester ; a third of —, father to —, wife of William Collins, of Aſton, were the iſſue of the reverend Henry Wood, rector of Aldrich and Yarborough in Lincolnſhire, prebendary of Lichfield, and ſacriſt of Wolverhampton.

Upon

Upon Ogley Hay, a few years since, was a rabbit-warren; and, in 1765, Richard Gildart, esq. who had then lately purchased the manors of Norton and Ogley, restocked it with rabbits, and now resides in or near Norton.

Many persons of Lynue, Upper Stonall, Wall, and Pipe hill, in right of their messuages claim a liberty of pasture for sheep, without limitation; paying eight-pence yearly for these messuages. The arrears had not been demanded for 33 years, till 1765, when Richard Gildart levied thirteen years payment in lieu of the whole.

The soil varies according to the improvements made upon it, though a great part of Ogley is of a dry and sandy nature; I have introduced it here, because it has chiefly been the property of persons who have had little connexion with the parish of Shenstone.

On the common adjoining is a vast quantity of little white stones, and the ground so covered is of such a compass, that they appear as if they were an hail storm; greater still would be their appearance if the land were thinly turfed as they seem to be formed, or grow on or near the surface.

Fourthly, we speak of F I R E,

under which I must note that of the elements. In June, 1764, upon a Sunday in the last hot summer, was terrible thunder and lightning, which filled every house to the most dreadful appearance. Many were carried out of their rooms and beds to parts of them that were supposed less dangerous, though to all appearance in the midst of flames; yet I do not recollect
that

that any persons were burnt. In the intervals of the flashes it was very dark; in the fields and roads the lightning seemed to run upon the ground. The whole day preceding was extremely sultry to people of our climate. Joseph Elde lost one ox by the flames, and another was so injured as never after to thrive. Moses Collins of Hilton and others had thirty-three sheep killed together in one direction, as if scorched on one side of their heads.

Of fuel are turf and peat, and unquestionably coal, at least in the neighbourhood. Of the former no use is made, I mean for this purpose. Of coals we have plenty at four miles distance, at Brown hills on Cannoc. Good coals are also brought from the works of — Hufley, of Little Worley, esq. — Vernon, of Hilton, esq. Effington Wood, and Wednesbury, which being tolerably cheap, there is less occasion for peat as a fuel, though it might be got in plenty, especially on Sutton chace and Sutton park.

At Little Aston Dr. Plott * found curious hollies bearing leaves prettily edged with yellow, of the same colour with those in the physic garden at Oxford. These were cut down by Humphry Minchin, esq. as giving an air of gloominess.

Dr. Plott observes from the worthy Mr. Fryth of Thornes hall, of whom he learnt some account of herbs, that about Shenstone they frequently used *Erica Vulgaris*, Heath or Ling, instead of hops, to preserve their beer, which gave no ill taste, and that sometimes they malted oats, which, mixed with barley malt, was called dredge malt, of which they make an excellent quick fresh sort of drink. How it might be in his days we cannot say, but we find no such custom at present, either in embittering their drink, or mixing their malt.

* Natural History of Staffordshire, cap. 6.

In Cannoc, near which Shenstone is situate, and out of which it was taken, if not on Sutton chace, is found excellent game, as grouse, woodcocks, and snipes, in abundance, with partridges and hares. In Shenstone too would be plenty of hares and partridges, if both gentry and poachers did not equally conspire to prevent it.

The rivers in the parish are noted for exquisite trout, and good pike; gudgeons and chub were heretofore more plentiful.

The land tax, in 1765, at 4s. in the pound, amounted to 101l. 13s. 4d. The levies to the poor, a few years since came to about 120l. yearly.

In October, 1769, Shenstone parish was surveyed by Joseph Wadams and Joseph Swift, churchwardens; James Rawlins and Thomas Woolley, overseers, and valued at 4240l.

Of P L A N T S we have occasionally spoken.

As of the *Erica Vulgaris*.

We find also the *Narcissus Silvestris Pallidus*, wild English Daffodil.

The *Millefolium aquaticum foliis fœniculi*, fennel-leaved water Crowsfoot.

The *Vitis Idæa thymi foliis*, Mofs berries, or Moor berries.

The *Muscus multiformiter pyxidatus capitibus coccineis*, scarlet headed chalice mofs; a beautiful plant in its flourishing condition; the cups are set round with scarlet eminences about as big as pins' heads. This, or a mofs equally beautiful. is found on Broad heath.

The

The *Sambucus fructu albo*, white berried elder, as I have been informed.

In the parish are five seats for gentry, as Shenstone hall, Shenstone park, the Moss, Fotherley, and Aston halls.

At the distance of one mile is Swynfen; at five Fisherwick, the seat of Arthur marquis of Donegal; at six Drayton Bassett, of the marquis of Bath; at seven lord Middleton's; at four Sir Robert Lawley's of Cannal; at five Thomas Hoo's, of Barr; at three lord Irnham's of Four Oaks; at two Ralph Floyer of Hintz; and many others near Lichfield, Sutton Colefield, and Birmingham; so that on the whole Shenstone is a desirable situation.

September 22, 1774.

Of Shenstone we observe, that during the troubles in the reign of king Charles I. it was much harrassed by the garrisons of Stafford and Rushal house, and protected or oppressed as Lichfield was or was not in the Royalists hands. In general the gentry were loyal, as we have instanced in the families of Ducey, Bolyer, and Adcocks. In 1644 the parish was ordered to pay its weekly assessment, as settled by the Stafford committee, with Cannal, Weeford, and Drayton, at least those parts of it that were in their power, to George Bowes and Thomas Willington, captains of horse.

To the Pendrels, or their heirs, as descended from those of the name who were instrumental in the preservation of king Charles II. are paid, by various tenants in the parish, certain crown rents, amounting to 4l. 10s. 4½d., being in reality part of the Moss house revenues, at the half yearly value, to which we add the half yearly payment for the rectory of Shenstone

from Noel Hill, esq. *viz.* 2l. 19s. 7d. and 7½d. as paid separately by the late Samuel Hill, esq. also 2l. 10s. for Alcott mill.

Thus I have, as far as was in my power, given an account of Shenstone, and with as much fidelity as possible, to 1774; yet alterations do frequently happen in so large a parish, but, if any thing material hath fallen out, we may note it in an addition.

Laus Deo! September 24, 1774.

A P P E N D I X.

Watling street is one of the four great Roman roads * from one end of the land to the other, leading from Dover to Chester. Sometimes these four roads, by way of eminence, are called streets, Basilical streets, the Prætorian, Consular, and Military ways. This, named the Watling street, cometh out of Warwickshire into this county, remaining, generally speaking, high and good, being very little decayed or injured, either by time or the plough; it enters at Fazeley bridge, runs by Hintz, Weeford, near Shenstone park, by Swynfen, towards Wall, which it divides into two parts, one belonging to Lichfield, the other to Shenstone, thence near Frog hall by Occamly pits to Knaves or Knute's castle, which an antiquary thinks were made for raising this streetway from East South East to West North West as far as Four Crosses. There

* Robert, monk of Gloucester.

it turns a little, and bears somewhat near the West, about West and by North, and so enters Shropshire near Sheriff Hales and Crackley Bank, passing through to Chester, but, as others say *, into the farthest part of Wales.

That Watling street was a work of the Romans is not to be doubted. Whilst Agricola (saith Tacitus) governed Britain, several ways were enjoined, and far distant places, by the surveyor's commandment, that the country should carry from the nearest camp, or wintering places, to those that were far off and out of the way; and the Britains complained that the Romans wore out and consumed their bodies in clearing of woods and paving the fens, with a thousand stripes and reproachful indignities.

We read in antient records †, that, in the days of Honorius and Arcadius, there were made in Britain certain beaten ways from sea to sea ‡.

Bede says §, these were the Romans' work. The Romans inhabited within the wall which Severus had made overthwart the island, towards the Southern side, which the cities, churches, and street-ways, there made, do witness at this day.

From this road was the name of *Wattlebury* in Salop, on which this village stands; and that antient city *Verulam*, near St. Alban's, called in the Saxons time *Wetlinga ceaster*, as appeared by king Ethelred's charter granting lands to the monastery of St. Alban's in 926.

Great was the cost and labour in carrying of stones, gravel, and sand, for the making those ways firm and lasting, as may

* Radulphus Cestrensis.

† Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 6.

‡ Camden.

§ Ecclesiastical History, cap. 11.

yet be seen in divers parts, where the soil itself within many miles affords no such materials.

It hath been observed, that near St. Alban's, in digging the ground where this way antiently went, gravel and sand hath been found ten feet deep in the earth, and eighteen feet broad, with great flint stones in the bottom, such as are supposed at first to have been on the top thereof. We are told, that Augustus Cæsar, and other chief men among the Romans, were appointed by the senate to be officers to take care of these roads. Dugdale adds, that the Ædiles sometimes took charge of them, as appears by the emperor Caligula's causing the Ædile vestment of Flavius Vespasian to be stuffed with dirt, because he executed that office negligently; and sometimes that employment was committed to the Questors.

The Romans made particular laws for the preservation of those roads, and committed them to the protection of the Gods, called *Lares Viales*.

These ways were in great account among the Saxons, as appears by the laws of St. Edward, touching the peace of the four road ways; and the statutes of Marlborough forbid distresses on those highways.

To sum up what we mean to say on this head, we observe, that these highways for the marching of armies, and passage of carriages, as well as for their security in countries abounding with woods, were made at first of large stakes, and lesser wood woven between them, to keep up the earth and stones laid between, called by the Saxons *wattles*, whence this road is since called *Watling street*. It enters Salop near Boninghale, and thence passing by Wellington goes through the antient station called *Uriconium* or *Wroxeter*, an old city, formerly three miles in circumference, built on a foundation of pebble stones three

yards thick, the metropolis say some*, the second city as others †, of the *Cornavii*. The streetway, a little way from this city, leads either through a ford or over a bridge; hence it goes to Acton Burnel, then to the three Street Towns, or Strettons, and so on to Lenterdine in Herefordshire, near which was the Roman fortification or camp, called *Old Branodunium*; so into Wales, through the middle of which province it passes to Cardigan, where it ends.

I C K E N I L D S T R E E T.

Opinions differ as to this way, therefore I shall note what is said on the best authorities.

Though the Romans are ages since departed from this isle, yet they have left behind them some things memorable, of which the most considerable are their public ways, which, though now broken and discontinued by various accidents and length of time, have such large tracts remaining, that, by an easy conjecture, they may be discovered to satisfaction.

They were of two sorts; first, Basilical, consular, or prætorian; because all misdemeanors committed in them came under the cognizance of the king himself only. They were called by William the Conqueror *Chemini Majores*, the greater ways,

* Camden.

† Burton.

from the French word *Chemin*, a way ; and of this sort there were but four in England, Watling street, Erming street, the Fosse, and Ikenild street, two of which ran through the island from sea to sea, and two the breadth. Secondly, the Vicinal ways, which lead from colony to colony, city to city, and borough to borough. All misdemeanors committed upon these ways fell under the cognizance of the earl, who was the chief military governor. *Chemini Minores*, or the lesser ways ; of which kind are those near Alcester or Aldchéster, and the road *Ad Pontes*, or Colebrook, with the Akeman street beforementioned.

The Iceni inhabited Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, and Huntingdonshires, with the Isle of Ely *, and were so named from *Iken*, in British, a wedge, because their country lay along the ocean in the form of a wedge. But this will hardly account for the name among the *Cateuchlani* and *Cornavii*, the inhabitants of Warwick and Staffordshires. I have indeed seen the remark of some author, that there was a strong people named the Iceni, near or between the rivers Severn or Avon.

There is a great road called Ikeneld street in Oxfordshire, Bucks, and Berkshire ; but the greatest and true Ikenild way has been disputed. In these counties it was not cast up in a ridged bank, or laid out by a deep trench, as others were, because it lies in Oxfordshire, under the Chiltern hills, on a firm fast ground, having the hills themselves as a sufficient direction, and seems to come from Norfolk and Suffolk, the dominions of the Iceni.

Ickenild street, one of the old Roman military consular and prætorian highways, crosses the county of Stafford only in the hundred of Offlow. It remains high and lofty, as the Watling

* Speed and Camden.

street does, which, as we noted, crosses Staffordshire and the parish of Shenstone another way, and is but little decayed. It seems to be raised after a different method from those in other countries, not by digging a deep trench to lay a firm foundation, and then making a high ridge upon it, but by casting up the gravel on each side, as appears plainly at Little Aston. This cannot be the same with that of Oxfordshire, for that is so called only because it tends towards the Iceni in Norfolk and Suffolk; but this is so named because it passes through the country of the Iceni between the Avon and the Severn; for, Tacitus mentions the Iceni in both places; and Dr. Plott says, he takes this Ikenilde street to be one of the great Roman highways, and not that in Oxfordshire, because this is paved in some places, and very signal almost in all places where it goes, which that in Oxfordshire is not, an intimation, that the Iceni of these parts were the most considerable people.

One antiquary * observes, that Strethay, or Streetway, of which the village of Strethey is named, is an antient Roman road that passeth by Lichfield, and is called the Ikenild. That it gives name to Stretton, near Burton upon Trent, and came through Little Chester, by Derby, a Roman colony, and, as he takes it, ends at Portsmouth. The causeway is plain to be seen upon Egington heath, and Alrewas Hay; it leaves Burton also, and goes over the commons directly from Branston to Monk's bridge, crosses the Dove at that place, thence passeth over Burton moor, and over the Trent at Whichnovre, thence over Alreways Hay to Strethey and Wall.

This highway comes from Tinemouth in Northumbeland †, through Yorkshire to Bolsover; thence by Chesterfield, through

* Sir Simon Degge.

† Dugdale.

Scarsdale, passes over Morley moor to Little Chester near Derby, and so over to Eggington heath, crossing the Dove at Monk's bridge, then over Burton moor, and passeth the Trent at Whichnover bridge, stretching through Alderwas Hays, thence to Street-hey, and so to Wall (anciently called *Etocetum*) where it crosses Watling street, thence over Radley moor; leaving Little Aston on the right hand it entereth the lordship of Sutton, and so extendeth itself to Alcester in Warwickshire; thence over Bitford bridge (leaving Cambden in Gloucestershire a little on the left hand), to Stowe on the Wolds, where it crosses the Fosse-way, from Stow bridge to Burford, and over Isis at New bridge directly to Wallingford, and so through Winchester to Southampton. Particularly in respect to Shenstone parish, it enters it on the way from Sutton park to Little Aston, and leans by the old stables belonging to Aston hall, thence through the village to Radley moor, Fotherley house, the Ashcrofts, Chesterfield, and crosses the Watling-street, a quarter of a mile from Wall, to Strethey and Stretton, near Burton as aforesaid.

Having been favoured with a list of the people in this parish, who resided in 1667, in the reign of king Charles II. I have ventured to give it, as it may be agreeable to the present inhabitants, and point out to some of them their ancestors, and by comparison shew what alterations have happened amongst them.

This list is the copy of an assessment of the tenth quarterly assessment for the aid of king Charles II. signed and sealed June

11, by his Majesty's justices of the peace, John Wyrley and John Persehouse, esqrs.

Shenstone Constablewick.				£. s. d.			
John Brandreth, esq. for Syl-							Rowland Alsop
vester's house and Wal-							—— Sylvester, widow
ford's	1	17	9				—— Brown
Edward Lake, esq.	—	0	14	0			John Smart
Thomas Warde, esq.	—	1	11	6			Humphry Heath
John Brown, gent. and Oli-							Thomas Potte, gent.
ver, for Pool bridge mea-							William Bartlett
dow and mills	0	8	0	$\frac{1}{2}$		0 2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
—— Wollaston, gent. for							Aston.
part of Greenhalls	1	9	0				
John Collyer for Greenhalls	1	10	0	$\frac{1}{2}$			Richard Ducey, esq.
—— Dolphyn	0	7	0			0 11	3
—— Greisbroke	0	1	4	$\frac{1}{2}$			—— Birch, widow, and
—— and for Floyer						0 7	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Henry Smyth, gent.	0	7	0				John Birch
John Broadhurst	0	2	4				—— Sedgwick, widow
John Nevil	0	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$		0 7	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
John Lea	0	2	11				Henry Sedgwick, gent.
Thomas Nevil	0	3	7			0 7	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
James Moseley	0	5	3	$\frac{1}{2}$			John Darby
—— Clay, widow	0	0	8	$\frac{1}{2}$		0 4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Richard Ingram	0	0	10	$\frac{1}{2}$		0 1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
William Wyatt						0 1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
John Crefwell	0	3	6			0 1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
William Cooper	0	0	8	$\frac{1}{2}$		0 1	1
John Cook	0	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$		0 1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ann Cooke, widow	0	2	4			0 0	7
Rowland Sylvester	0	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$		0 3	10
Henry Ashmole	0	0	10	$\frac{1}{2}$			John Cox
—— Weston, widow	0	0	7	$\frac{1}{2}$			—— Bradshaw
—— Jackson							Robert Collins
Rowland Stanley							—— Best
William Hollyland	0	0	10	$\frac{1}{2}$			William Watfon
John Sylvester	0	0	10	$\frac{1}{2}$			Thomas Foley, esq. and the
John Malkyn							Forge
Walter Rawlins						0 12	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ralph Thickbroome							Footherley.
Nicolas Thornton							
							Thomas Foley, esq.
						0 3	6
						0 5	3
						0 4	11
							John

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
John Collier ———	0	6	1½	John Lane			
Roger and Joseph Adam	0	3	0	John Nevil			
——— Sylvester, widow,				William Perry ———	0	0	10½
and George Sylvester —	0	2	0	Thomas Quintyn, gent.	0	5	0
Nicolas Wyatt ———	0	0	10½	William Quintyn ———	0	3	0
James Fletcher ———	0	5	10¼	——— Best ———	0	3	0½
William and Edw. Thornton	0	6	6½	——— Fryth's Bullmoors	0	0	7
——— Priest, widow, and							
William Priest ———	0	5	6½	——— Swynfen, esq. Hill			
Thomas Wyatt ———	0	4	2½	Hall, and inhabitants	2	14	1

Wood End.

Over Stonall and Hilton.

James Sylvester ———	0	2	0	Thomas Reading ———	0	4	8
John Cotterel ———	0	2	4	Hamlet Reading ———	0	1	5½
——— Smyth, widow, and				Thomas Collier ———	0	0	10½
William Smyth ———	0	2	5½	Thomas Heatley ———	0	1	2
——— Sylvester, widow, and				——— Forden			
James Sylvester ———	0	2	7½	John Speed			
John Sylvester ———	0	3	0	John Barton ———	0	0	7
——— Yardley, gent.	0	2	2½	William Edjial			
Nicolas Allen ———	0	0	8½	William and John Sylvester	0	1	7½
——— Fletcher				Robert Sylvester ———	0	1	7½
James and George Sylvester,				Thomas Reading ———	0	1	2
for the Durlfall, or Durl-				Robert Reading ———	0	0	8½
hall ———	0	3	6	John Jennings ———	0	0	7½
				William Reading			
				Edward Reading			
				Simon Parkes ———	0	0	5½
				John Bankes ———	0	1	10

Chesterfield.

James Allen, gent. —	0	8	3½
John Jackson, gent. —	0	5	10
——— Bowring ———	0	1	0
Richard Smyth ———	0	1	3½
——— Clarke			
John Watfon ———	0	1	5½
John Heeley ———	0	2	0½

Wall.

William Dutton, gent. —	0	5	11
Henry Jackson, gent. —	0	4	8

Thornes.

William Stanley ———	0	1	9
Rowland Serjeant ———	0	2	4
Humphry Edjial ———	0	2	4
James Best ———	0	1	3½
——— Wyatt, widow	0	0	7
——— Bayley, widow			
Richard Salt ———	0	1	9
Roger Bulkley			
Z z			

Poor's

	£.	s.	d.
Poor's Bullmoors	—	0	1 9
—— Fryth, widow	—	0 12	6½

£. s. d.

Nether Stonall.

Lyndon.			
Michael Sedgewick	—	0	0 10½
—— Earpe	—	0	3 7½
Thomas Gregge	—	0	4 6½
Nicolas Sylvester	—	0	3 2½
Thomas Cooper	—	0	1 9
William Reading	—	0	3 7½
Joseph Green	—	0	3 2½
—— Botham, widow	—	0	1 10
—— Gregg, widow	—	0	1 2
Nicolas Reading	—	0	0 7
Thomas Bedworth	—	0	1 5½
Francis Willis	—	0	0 10
Thomas Turner	—	0	0 10
Thomas Hunt	—	0	0 5
James Whitehall	—	0	0 10
Samuel Collins	—	0	0 5
—— Best, widow	—	0	3 0
—— Griffyn	—		
—— Bulkeley, widow, and Thornes	—		

Anthony Butteries	—	0	4 8
Simon Wagon	—	0	0 10
John Job barn	—	0	2 5
John Wadams	—	0	3 0
John Adcock	—	0	5 1
Thomas Offley	—	0	4 1
Edward Wraft	—	0	2 7
William Holyland	—	0	1 9
Thomas Dickenson	—	0	6 1
Thomas Stanley	—	0	4 5
John Harrison	—	0	2 0
Rowland Hunt	—	0	0 7
John Rock	—	0	1 0
Rowland Serjeant for the Black Lees	—	0	1 1
Total		22	8 3

Thomas Ward, of Wood End,
 John Dolphyn, of the Mosse,
 John Darby, of Little Aston,
 Thomas Dickenson, of Nether Stonall,
 Gents. Assessors.

A C O P Y of another A S S E S S M E N T

For A S T O N, F O O T H E R L E Y, and S Y W N F E N.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Aston.				Roger and John Adams	0	6	0
Richard Ducey, esq. —	1	0	10	—— Sylvester, widow, and			
—— Birch, widow, and				George ———	0	3	6
John her son, for Best's				Nicolas Wyatt for Bullaries	0	1	9
and Sedgewick's field land	0	12	6	James Fletcher ———	0	10	3
—— Sedgewick, widow,				William and Edward Thorn-			
and Henry Sedgewick, for				ton ———	0	11	3
Best's meadow and Cook's				—— Priest, widow, and			
field land ———	0	12	6	William ———	0	9	6
—— Darby, —— Bay-				Thomas Wyatt ———	0	7	3
ley, widow, —— Cook,				James Sylvester ———	0	4	0
widow ———	0	7	6	John Cotterell ———	0	3	6
John Cook ———	0	4	9	—— Smyth, widow, and			
John Payne ———	0	2	10	William ———	0	4	3
William Burnes ———	0	2	6	—— Sylvester, widow, and			
Thomas Adams ———	0	2	0	James ———	0	4	6
John Cox for Bradshaw's	0	8	3	John Sylvester ———	0	0	6
Best's house ———	0	0	3	—— Yardley, gent.	0	3	9
Robert Collins ———	0	0	4	Nicolas Allen ———	0	1	3
William Walton				James and George Sylvester			
Thomas Foley, esq. for Aston				for Durstall or Darnells	0	6	0
Forge ———	0	6	0				

Swynfen.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Footerley.				John Swynfen, esq. and te-			
Thomas Foley, esq. for the				nants, John Porter, gent.			
Boffes ———	0	15	0	for Hill Hall ———	5	8	5
John Brown, gent. —	0	6	0	Thomas Warde,			
Ditto for Perry field —	0	1	0	John Dolphyn,			
William Grace, gent.	0	9	0	John Darby,			
Ditto for Grendon's land	0	5	0	Thomas Dickenson,			
John Collyer ———	0	10	6				

} Assessors.

A List of the INHABITANTS that paid the POLL-TAX
in 1692, in the Reign of King WILLIAM III. Each paid
One Shilling, even Servants.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Anne Brandreth	0	1	0	Joseph Alfop and wife	0	2	0
Brandreth, esq.	1	8	0	John Johnson	0	1	6
Servants				Rowland Lea	0	1	0
Edward Lake, fenr.	1	1	0	Edward Broadhurst	0	1	0
Edward Lake, junr. esq.	1	1	0	Robert Pretty and wife	0	2	0
His wife	0	1	0	Thomas Alfop	0	1	0
Servants				Joseph Carter	0	1	0
Thomas Ward and wife	0	2	0	Aldrich, widow, and			
Alexander Ward	1	1	0	maid	0	3	0
wife and child	0	2	0	Thomas Cotterel and wife	0	2	0
Servants				John Yardley and wife	0	2	0
John Dolphyn, fenr.	0	1	0	Thomas Grace	0	1	0
John Dolphyn, Junr. attorney				Rowland Collyns, wife, and			
at law	0	1	0	child	0	3	0
wife and two children	0	3	0	James Sylvester and wife	0	2	0
Servants				two servants	0	2	0
Robert Grace, vicar, wife, and				Benjamin Collier, wife, and child	0	3	0
two children	0	4	0	fervant	0	1	0
Rowland Sylvester	0	1	0	Edward Thomson and wife	0	2	0
Dorothy Smyth and two sons	0	3	0	James Adams, wife, and two			
Jonathan Ashmole	0	1	0	children	0	4	0
Barford, widow	0	1	0	James Philips and wife	0	2	0
Rowland Greenhall and wife	0	2	0	James Fletcher and man	0	2	0
Richard Bull, wife, and child	0	3	0	Edward Thornton, wife, and			
Robert Griefbrooke	0	1	0	two sons	0	4	0
wife and two children	0	3	0	William Priest, wife, and child	0	3	0
William Cooke and wife	0	2	0	Sarah Wyatt, widow	0	1	0
John Cooke	0	1	0	Edward Milner	0	1	0
William Collier	0	1	0	Joseph Hall	0	1	0
Richard Ingram	0	1	0	Richard Walker and wife, two			
two servants	0	2	0	children, and one servant	0	5	0

William

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
William Smyth and wife, and two servants —	0	4	0	James and Thomas Milner	0	2	0
William Wyatt and wife	0	2	0	John Hall and wife —	0	2	0
James Sedgewick and wife, and three children —	0	3	0	William Steel —	0	1	0
Thomas Careless and wife, one man —	0	2	0	——— Smyth, widow	0	1	0
Humphry Shenstone and wife	0	2	0	Edward Hanley and servant	0	2	0
——— Cooke, widow —	0	1	0	George Hodgetts —	0	1	0
William Bagnal and wife	0	2	0	John Jackson and family	0	4	0
one maid —	0	1	0	William Hall and wife —	0	2	0
Joseph Colman, wife, and two sons —	0	4	0	William Milner, wife, and child	0	3	0
William Brisborn, wife, and child —	0	3	0	James Hanley, wife, and child	0	3	0
George Jackson and wife	0	2	0	Thomas Salt, wife, and child	0	3	0
William Hardwick, wife, and two children —	0	4	0	——— Mother —	0	1	0
Mrs. Brown and four servants	0	5	0	——— Stanley, widow, and son —	0	2	0
——— Fryth, esq.	0	2	0	Thomas Dickenfon and wife	0	2	0
two servants —	0	2	0	John Dickenfon and wife	0	2	0
Richard Wright and wife	0	2	0	servant —	0	1	0
Robert Sylvester —	0	1	0	Richard Greaves —	0	1	0
John Bartlet, wife, and child	0	3	0	Alexander Adcock, wife, and child —	0	3	0
one servant —	0	1	0	John Adcock and wife —	0	2	0
John Smyth, wife, and two children —	0	4	0	two children —	0	2	0
John Sylvester —	0	1	0	John Wadams and wife —	0	2	0
——— Sylvester, junr. and wife —	0	2	0	John Swynfen, esq. —	1	1	0
John Edjial —	0	1	0	Mary Swynfen —	1	1	0
Richard Bull and wife —	0	2	0	Francis Swynfen, wife, and six children —	1	8	0
William Reading and wife	0	2	0	two grandchildren —	0	2	0
George Hawe —	0	1	0	seven servants —	0	7	0
William Bond —	0	1	0	——— Porter, widow, three children, and one servant	0	5	0
John Bayley —	0	1	0	Thomas Wadshaw and wife	0	2	0
Richard Tedd —	0	1	0	two children —	0	2	0
Thomas Tudor, wife and child	0	3	0	Joseph Taylor, wife, and two children —	0	4	0
Joseph Gregg and wife —	0	2	0	——— Collyns, widow, and son —	0	2	0
George Thornton —	0	1	0	one servant —	0	1	0
Samuel Moor —	0	1	0	Thomas Parker —	0	1	0
Thomas Reading and wife	0	2	0	Edward Marlow —	0	1	0
				Thomas Wilkyns, wife, and child —	0	3	0
							Michael

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Michael Brandreth, esq.	1	1	0	John Brown, gent.	—	1	1	0
——— charge for the militia				This list and assessment was signed April				
horse —	0	10	0	4, 1692, by the king's Commissioners,				
John Swynfen, esq. for half				Henry Gough,				
a horse —	0	10	0	John Whitwick,				
Rowland Fryth, esq. —	1	1	0	Michael Brandreth, and				
——— for half a horse	0	5	0	Rowland Fryth, esqrs.				

Shenstone Bells were cast in 1704, by Joseph Smyth, of Edge-
baston. Their Weight is as follows :

		Cwt.	qrs.	lb.
First Bell	—	5	1	1
Second	—	5	2	8
Third	—	6	2	25
Fourth	—	7	1	16
Fifth	—	9	3	11
		34	3	5

It was the superstition of dark ages to fancy, that bells derived a power of dispersing tempests, supposed to be raised by evil spirits, from their baptizing them, which was performed with a great deal of shew and ceremony. The natural cause, the vibration of the air by the sound, was little in their thoughts.

Ringling of bells was held a remedy against tempests. In 1573, the elector of Saxony issued an order against ringling for
6 the

the conjuring of tempests. This custom in Papistical times, by an horrible abuse of Christ's sacred institution, gave occasion to the baptizing of bells, as if thereby they were endued with a power over hail and storms.

Bells were used at Sens and Paris in the days of king Clotharius, who died in 561.

Bell baptism was condemned by the emperor Charles the Fat, who died in 881; yet pope John XIV. sanctified it by his example, baptizing a new bell in the Lateran steeple by the name of John's Bell

In the middle ages baptizing them was attended with much festivity, both in the towns and villages, and was of too great moment to be performed by a suffragan, or common priest; the godfathers, who were unlimited, and chosen out of the most wealthy, gave grand entertainments; and this festival was closed with all kinds of licentious mirth.

62

ADDENDA & CORRIGENDA.

- Page 1, line 1, add a note, "*Scerteſtan*, or rather *Sceoteſan*, is poſſibly Shuſhton in Cudleſton, where Domeſday puts *Sceoteſtan*."
- 3, for "Sweeford Hill," read "Weeford Hill."
- line 21, read "famous Barr beacon, belonging to Aldrich (a manor which is, or was once, ſubordinate to another), called the manor of Barr and Aldrich."
- 5, for "Hangewich," read "Hammerwich chapel."
- 8, lines 17 and 18, read "by the founder, Robert lord D'Oyley, which churches."
- lines 24 and 26, read "charter of lord Henry D'Oyley, with the conſent of Robert his brother."
- 12, laſt line but one, for "Tuntall," read "Tunſtall."
- 14, line 19, for "Coſton," read "Cofton."
- 19, line 1, read "Joan, ſole wife."
- 31, 21, read "Agard."
- 36, for "Maviſton," read "Maveſyn Ridware;" and for "Whichmore," read "Whichnor."
- 37, line 11, for "Michael Biddle," read "Michael Biddulph."
- 38, for "Alrewys," read "Alrewas."
- 41, line 21, read "John Noble and Jane Brandreth."
- 42, lines 14 and 15, dele "his grandfather."
- 46, 11, 12, 17, read "John Eggington," "Jane Littleton," "John Haughton," "Richard Wake, quere Wakefield."
- line 21, read "Hey, eſq. one of whoſe ſons is Thomas Hey, D.D of Wickham, Kent; and another, William, a counſellor at law, and (1787) a commiſſioner of the cuſtoms."
- 47, line 4, read "eſq. ſon of Sir Robert." [to agree with page 35].
- 5, for "Richard Colton of Hamſtall Redware," read "Richard Cotton of Hamſtall Ridware;" and ſo likewise read "Cotton" for "Colton" in ſeveral other lines.
- line 7, for "Coilſton," read "Boilſton."

- Page 40, lines 8 and 9, read "and the park. The said lord had summons."
 57, last line, dele "and Margaret Whitehall."
 69, line 2, after "years," read "to."
 70, To the first note add, "In p. 69, Rowland Woodward Hill, rector of Forncett, &c. is supposed to be second son to Thomas Harwood."
 71, lines 12 and 15, read "Northampton, now of New Lodge, near Berkhamstead,"———"Brearley."
 lines 30 and 33, read, "Eleanor, his cousin german."—"Charles Chadwick Sacheverell, late of New Hall, Warwickshire, esq."
 77, line 8, read "deceased."
 78, 25, read "Samuel, Simon, Ralph."
 83, 25 and 26, read "James Skrymsher and Elizabeth Colyere were ancestors of the Norbury branch of Skrymsher."
 100, line 3, for "1565," read "1665;" line 9, for "Trecot," read "Trescot;" and line 22, for "1767," read "1667."
 101, for "Bloxwick," read "Bloxwich."
 102, lines 3 and 4, read "Finborough,"——line 22, for "Staffrd," read "Statfold."
 The Everard pedigree, 107, '08, is violently suspected, from many concurring circumstances, to belong wholly to Shenton, Leicestershire. See Burton, and Wolferstan pedigree at the College at Arms. Whether Thomas Wolfrestan was of Weeford, or what other residence, after he left Culpho near Ipswich, we should be glad of information.
 116, line 22, for "Clinters," read "Clinton."
 122, 10 and 11, the arms are unintelligible.
 124, 20, dele "of heregeats, or heriots and reliefs."
 125, 25, for "£.5," read "£.15."
 127, 3, 7, and 9, read "piece of plate."—"Samuel Beardfley."—"Elizabeth Beardfley."
 129, line 15, for "Hamerwick," read "Hammerwich."
 134, 7, read "first vicar of Tanworth church in Warwickshire, after it was appropriated."
 22, dele "49th year of the reign of king Edward III."
 25 and 26, read "Richard Dolfyn became vicar of Tanworth. Another Richard, dying 1593, was"
 137, lines 21, 22, and 25, read "Arley."—"Perrot, of Belue Hall."——"Mellor."
 141, 21 and 24, read "left Ralph."——"purchased by him of Edward Basset, esq. son of Thomas, of Barton Bakepuis in the county of Derby, afterwards of Hynts."
 lines 25 and 29, read "at least twice."—"Without issue. (Q) Lastly, Elizabeth, daughter of William Noel, of Kirkby, relict of Ralph Adderley, of Alrewas, and mother to Sir Charles Adderley, of Hamms.

- Hamms. She died in 1661. His son, Richard Floyer, of Hynts, married a Babyngton, and was justice."
- Page 142, lines 3 and 4, read "aid. Richard Floyer had issue Matthew, who had, among many other children, a daughter."
lines 10 and 13, "John of Hynts), father by Susanna Willington."
——"besides whom Charles had issue Charles, Sacheverell, Mary, and Catharine."
line 29, read "Ley, of Mayfield or Matherfield."
- 143, 1 and 13, "Thomas Ley, counsellor at law, also of Mayfield in"
——"of Longdon."
- 147, lines 9 and 15, read "Hints, where he died, 16th November, 1793. Before Charles Floyer."—"Floyer's family."
- 157, line 22, read "Fafeley in Staffordshire."
- 158, 26, read "Moreton Slaney's."
- 161, 16, read "had issue Thomas, who had issue Thomas, who had issue Richard."
- 162, lines 3 and 5, "Edward of Longdon, who died,"—"Statfold"
7, dele "1772."
10, 11, 12, add a note, "Impossible, if she died in 1741, she should have been wife of this William, who could scarcely have a daughter born even so late as 1653."
lines 14 and 17, add a note, "Q. some confusion here? for, Edward, who is at top made nephew to this Edmund, of Longdon, esq. married A. Wolfrestan as early as 13th November, 1662."
line 18, "Edmund, son of A. Wolfrestan, married, 3d March, 1697, Miss Littleton, daughter to Edward Littleton, esq. of Pilaten Hall, and had issue Edward, born in January."
- 173, lines 19, 24, and 27, read "Phincas Fowke, M.D."—"Sybil was wife of Joseph Hufsey, of London, who had by her Fowke Hufsey."—"Which Fowke became in right."
- 175, lines 8 and 9, read "of Richard Pype, of Bilston in the county of Stafford, son of Thomas Pype, of Bilston, esq."
- 177, Conel, read "Costen;" and to the first note add "But the epitaph in page 14 *ante* is positive."
- 178, To the first note add, "From which we have here a consistent account; whereas pages 176 and 177 are contradictory both to Collins (though appealed to) and themselves; and quite unintelligible."
- 179, line 21, for "Wiltricton," read "Wilbrighton."
- 180, 6, for "Dickers," read "Dickens."
- 183, 24, 28, and 30, read "Lamport,"—"esq. who by Mary,"
——"esq. hath issue Andrew."
- 192, for "Gorfeot," read "Gorfcot."
- 194, line 6, for "sister," read "aunt."

- Page 201, line 11, read "three quarters of a mile south of the great Roman"
 214, 11 and 17, for "Cane" read "Canc."
 219, 6 and 8, read "road from Birmingham and Aston Parva, through Mill Green,"—"over Lyndon Green, and so to Stafford."
 239, line 13, read "to John Walhouse, second son of Moreton Walhouse."
 245, 22, read "of Tamworth, related to Thomas Guy, who founded"
 258, 29, for "Cumberfold," read "Cumberford."
 265, 3, 11, read "son of Fowke Husley."—"Dorrington."
 269, 13, read "another."
 289, 19 and 20, add a note, "Certainly at least as early as 13 Henry IV. (vol. II. Topographer, p. 12.)"—dele "Erdswic."
 line 24, for "Swynseald," read "Swynfen."
 28 and 30, "Arthur Swinten, of this family, had issue a daughter Elizabeth, wife of John Dugdale, esq. of the family of Clitherow, Lancashire, father by her of Sir William."
 290, line 6, for "Hillot," read "Hilcot."
 293 21, for "Staffordshire," read "Derbyshire."
 294, 14, 16, and 23, read "sold to Samuel Hill,"—dele "old"
 —"was (after his father ——— of Appleby) heir."
 lines 26 and 28, read "and, about 1767, married Mary, daughter of William Abney, of Tamworth, esq. and hath issue Samuel, and another son. He hath also issue by a second wife, sister to Sir Francis Ford, baronet."
 295, line 29, read "per chevron, Sable and Argent, in chief, three leopards heads of the second."
 298, line 20, *Shenstone* is not written *Scerteftane* either in ancient deeds or Domesday-book, but *Senestan*.
 line 23, *Scelfstene*, in Domesday, is what is now called *Shelton*, in the Pottery, in the hundred of Pirehill, though placed in Cudleston in that curious Record, which is FREQUENTLY confused as to the hundreds.
 304, lines 1, 2, 14, read "which old fees he paid £21. 11s. 1d. in the 14th"—"of Henry II.; the rest, viz. seventy-one," "the manor of Bradenham."
 311, lines 1 and 3, *Shenstone* is again erroneously called *Scerteftan*, and Leonilde misprinted.
 At the conclusion of Domesday for this county, it is said, that Levild, one of the king's thanes, held *Sceoteftan* in Cudleston hundred, which cannot now, perhaps, be ascertained. However, it is clearly not Shenstone, as Mr. Erdswick, as well as Mr. Sanders, has asserted; for, *Senestan* was one of the lordships given by the Conqueror to Roger de Montgomery, and was held of him by Robert de Oilge, or D'Oyley. It then contained three hides. The arable land

land was twelve carucates. There were two carucates in demefne, with one bondman, twenty-one villagers, and four bordarers, who employed fourteen ploughs. Here was a mill rented at sixty-fix pence, and one acre of meadow : alfo a wood three miles in length, and one mile and a half in breadth ; it was worth one hundred fhillings at the time of this furvey, in which it is farther obferved, that one Godwyn formerly held it, and was a freeman.

- Page 311, lines 20 and 21. " fifth baron," " sixth baron," read " fourth lord."
 312, 9, How Tanetine de Brai became poffeffed of Shenftone, we are yet ignorant ; but certainly not by the marriage here mentioned, from what is fhewn above.
 212, lines 13 and 15, dele " to him Henry D'Oyley, the conftable to the king, granted the lands that Tanetine de Brai, his father, held here."
 313, line 7, infert the word "*Query*" before "*if*."
 315, line 19, for " Alrewith," read " Alrewich, or Aldrich."
 317, 9, dele " who was, or afted as, joint lord with William Fryth."
 324, 10 and 11, read " mother of Thomas le Scott,"—" and child of Rowland the elder."
 325, line 11, for " Wombon," read " Winborn."
 327, 25, dele " near Mill Green and Afton."
 328, 8, 11, and 17, read " Wildmore,"—dele " and below Wall,"—" ftreams, particularly Pipe Brook, which, coming from the other fide of Hamerwich, paffes below Pipe Hill and Wall."
 lines 23 and 27, " runs through the middle of Drayton Baffet Park," " into the Tame ; which laft at Tamworth receives the Anker," " into the Trent, by Hopways, Fisherwic, and Croxal, at Whichnovre."
 329, lines 17 and 18, read " to Birchley farm (or Owl's Hall), near Lynne, and to the Bourn,"—" which by this time becomes a large water."—dele the reft of the paragraph.
 330, line 1, read " beforementioned."
 339, lines 3 and 9, " dele " or Sir George Vernon, knight."—read " and confirmed his leafe."—lines 21, 22, &c. " unintelligible."
 350, lines 23 and 26, " leaves Burton town alfo, and goes over to the Commons and Bofton Moor directly from Monk's Bridge (where it croffes the Dove), to Branfton, thence over the Trent," &c.



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